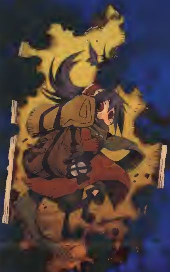
shoulder a coffin
kuro
Satoko Kiyuduki , houbunsha

Vol
2



棺（ひつぎ）担（かつ）ぎのクロ。

懐中旅話 ～カイチュウタビノワ～ 2

いつも通りの旅の途中——
私は、少し昔の夢をみた。

不思議な旅人との出会い、もうひとりの自分・少女モーとの別れ、
そして謎に包まれる魔女の黒い記憶…。
さらに深みを増す、童話風 新感覚4コマ最新刊！！

連載時のカラーページをそのまま再現した美麗コミックス!!

きゆづきさとこ

MANGA TIME
KR
COMICS

棺（ひつぎ）担（かつ）ぎのクロ。懐中旅話 ～カイチュウタビノワ～ 2

きゆづきさとこ

芳文社

9784832276345

1929979008192

ISBN978-4-8322-7634-5

C9979 ¥819E

雑誌 52201-35

定価：本体819円 +税

鮮やかに広がるクロの世界。

ドラマCD
棺（ひつぎ）担（かつ）ぎのクロ。
懐中旅話
～カイチュウタビノワ～

2007年7月25日発売
価格：3150円（税込）

きゆづきさとこ監修によるオリジナルストーリーを、
豪華キャストによってドラマCD化！！
ご期待下さい！！

～ CAST ～
クロ：高山みなみ／セン：津久井教生／ニジュク：徳永 愛
サンジュ：野中 藍／ジョット：大林隆介／イレーネ：久川 綾
※ドラマCDに関するお問い合わせは、株式会社フロンティアワークスまで。

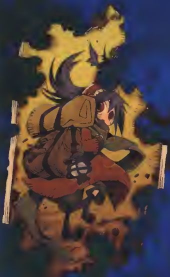
---

shoulder a coffin
kuro
Satoko Kiyuduki , houbunsha

Vol
2

shoulder a coffin
kuro
Satoko Kiyuduki , houbunsha

Vol
2



DESIGNED BY
KOMEWORKS
k anac

棺担ぎのクロ。

懐中旅話
～カイチュウタビノワ～

2

きゆづきさとこ

MANGA TIME
KR
COMICS

MANGA TIME
KR
COMICS

棺担ぎのクロ。
懐中旅話 ～カイチュウタビノワ～
2
きゆづきさとこ

芳文社

9784832276345
1929979008192
ISBN978-4-8322-7634-5
C9979 ¥819E
雑誌 52201-35
定価：本体819円+税

shoulder a coffin "kuro"
Satoko Kiyuduki houbunsha

shoulder a coffin
kuro
Satoko Kiyuduki , houbunsha

Vol
2

MANGA TIME KR

棺担（かんかつ）ぎのクロ。

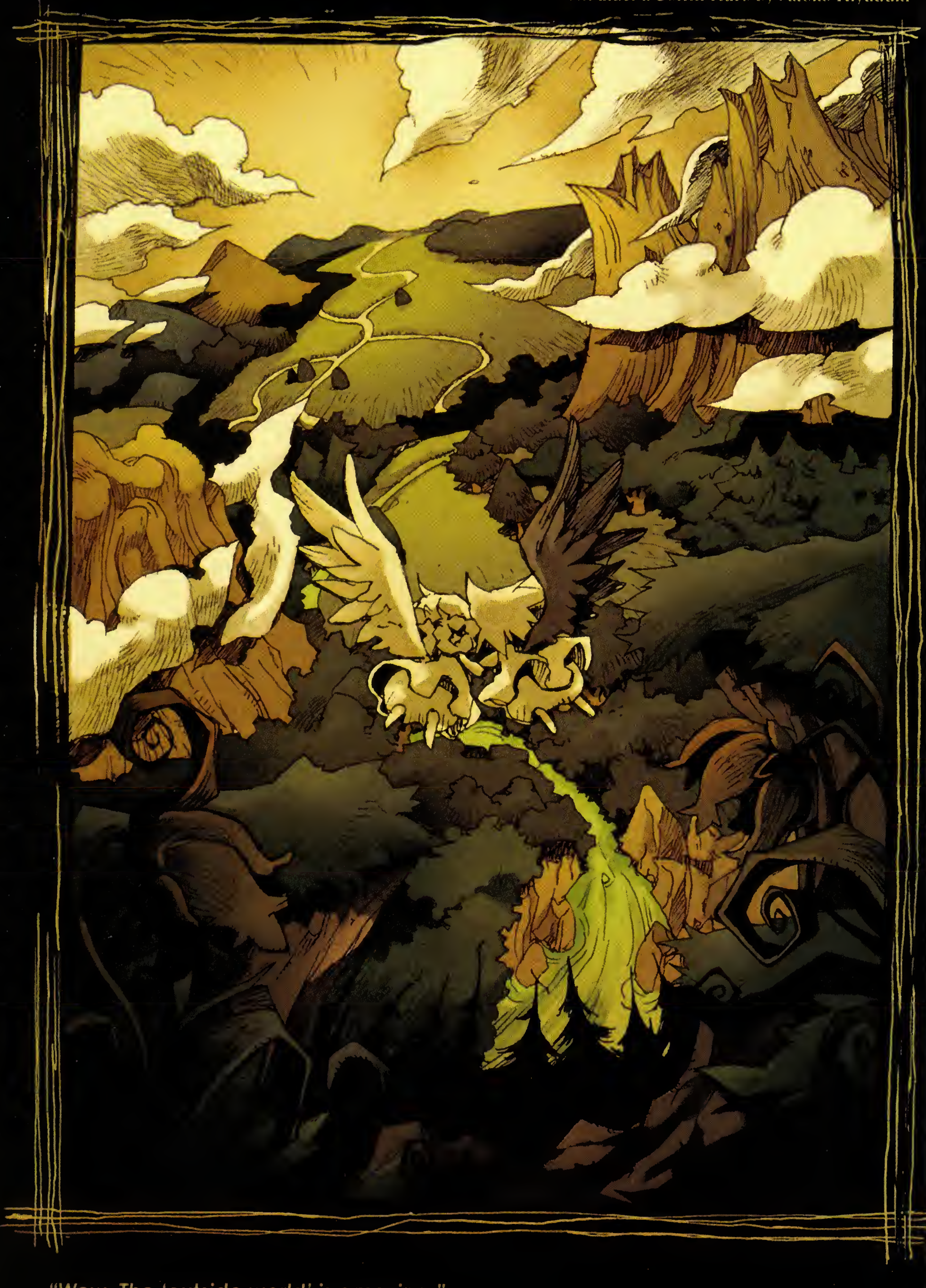
懐中旅話（～カイチュウタビノワ～）

2

きゆづきさとこ

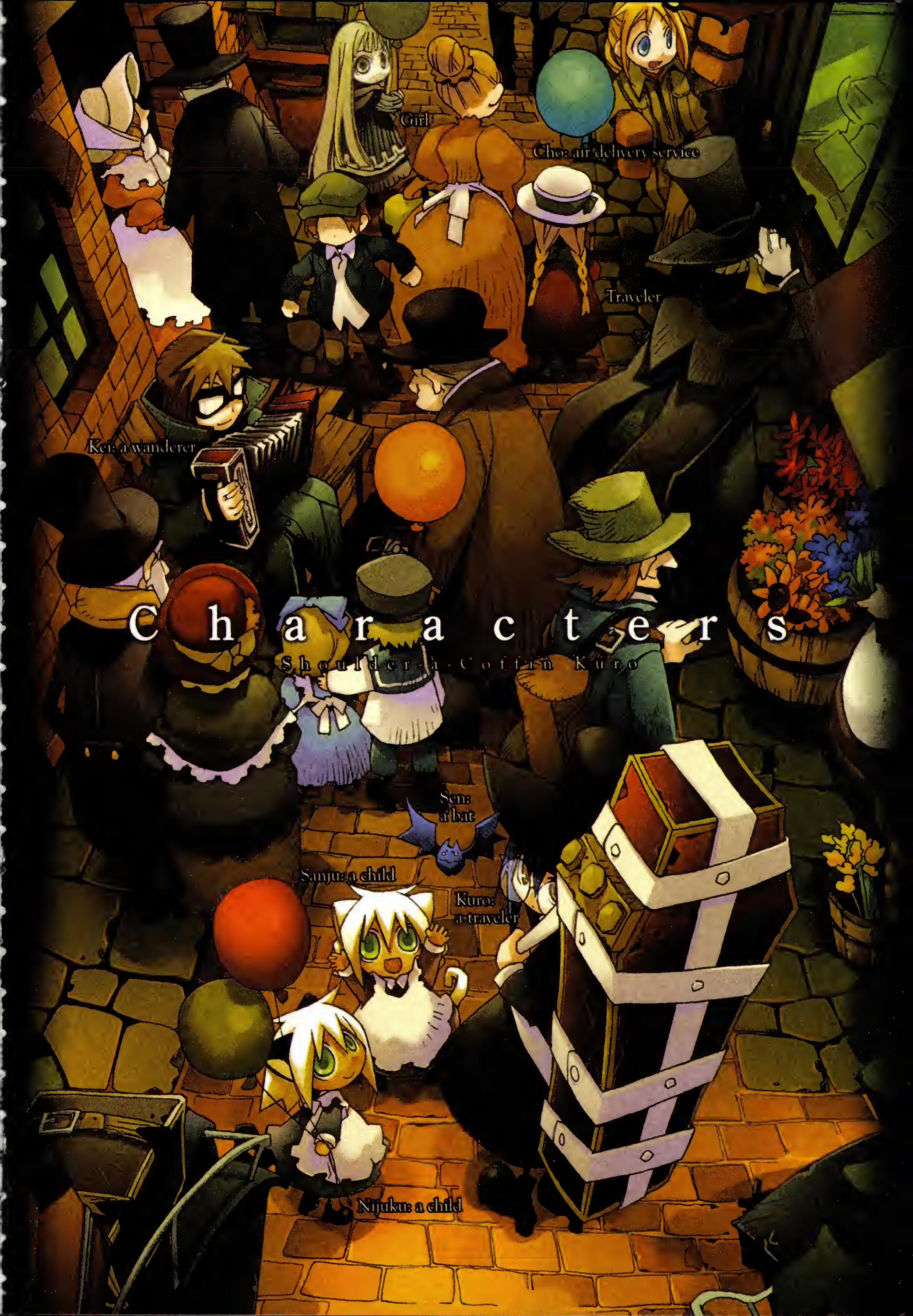
芳文社

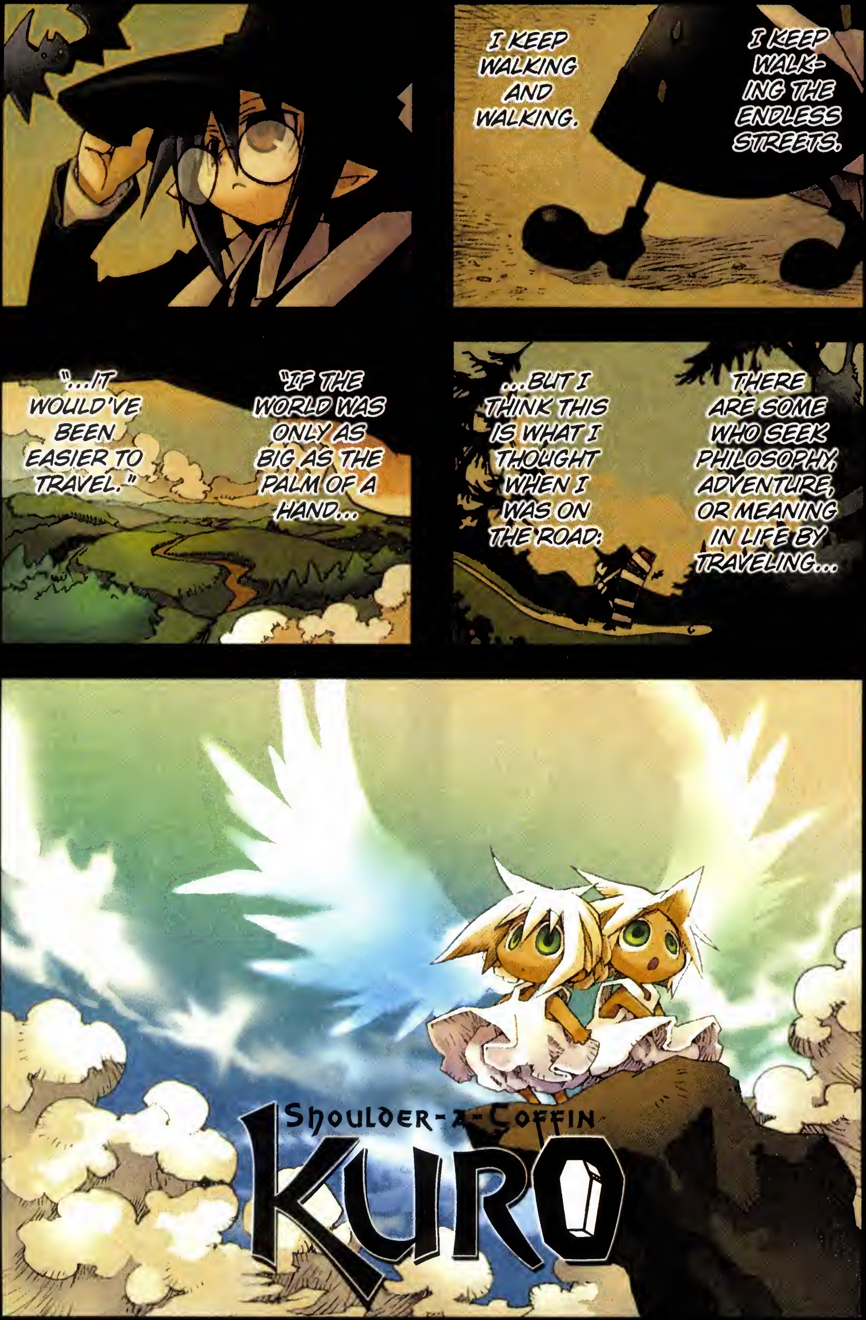
shoulder a coffin , "kuro" Satoko Kiyuduki , houbunsha

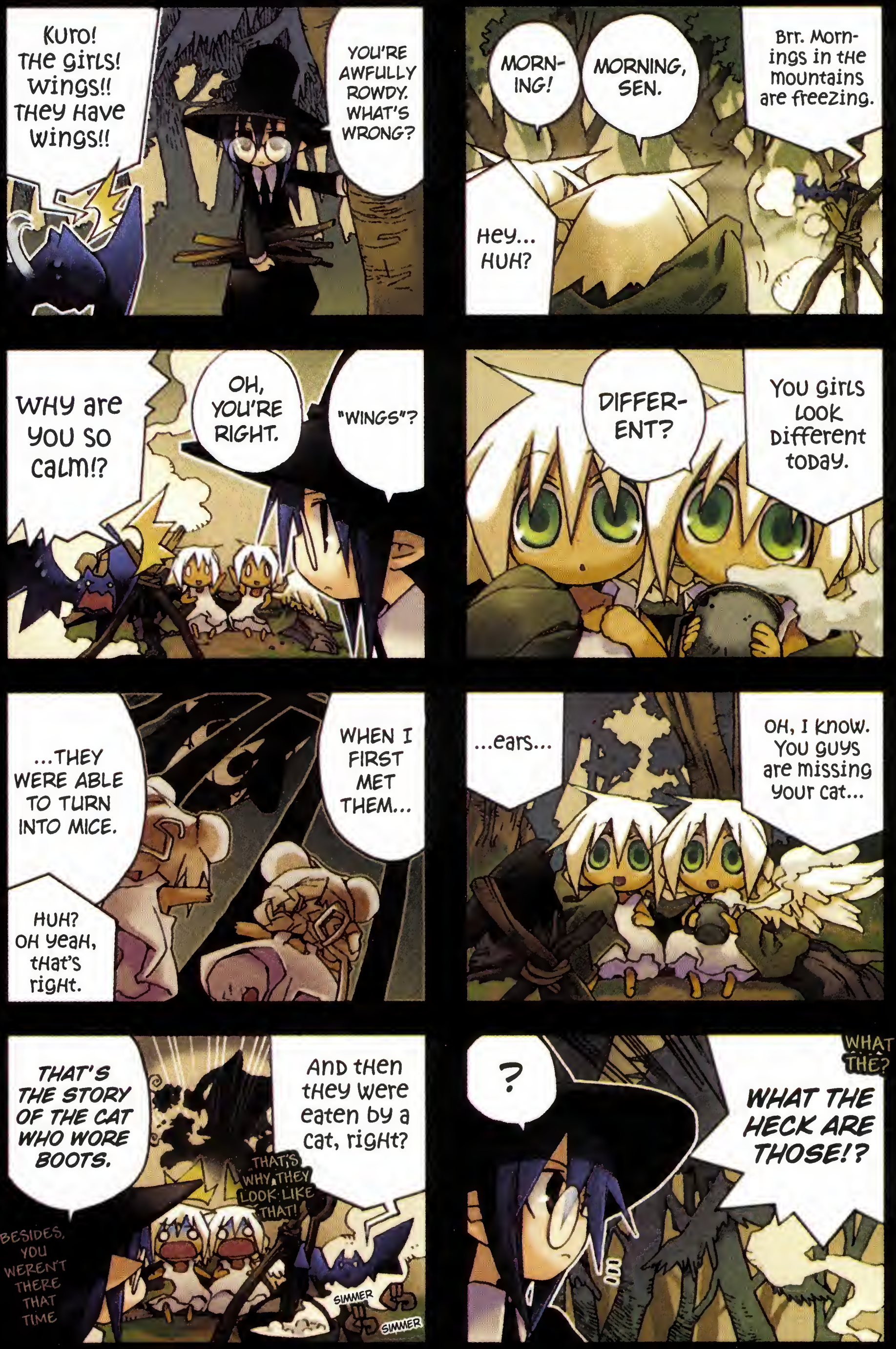


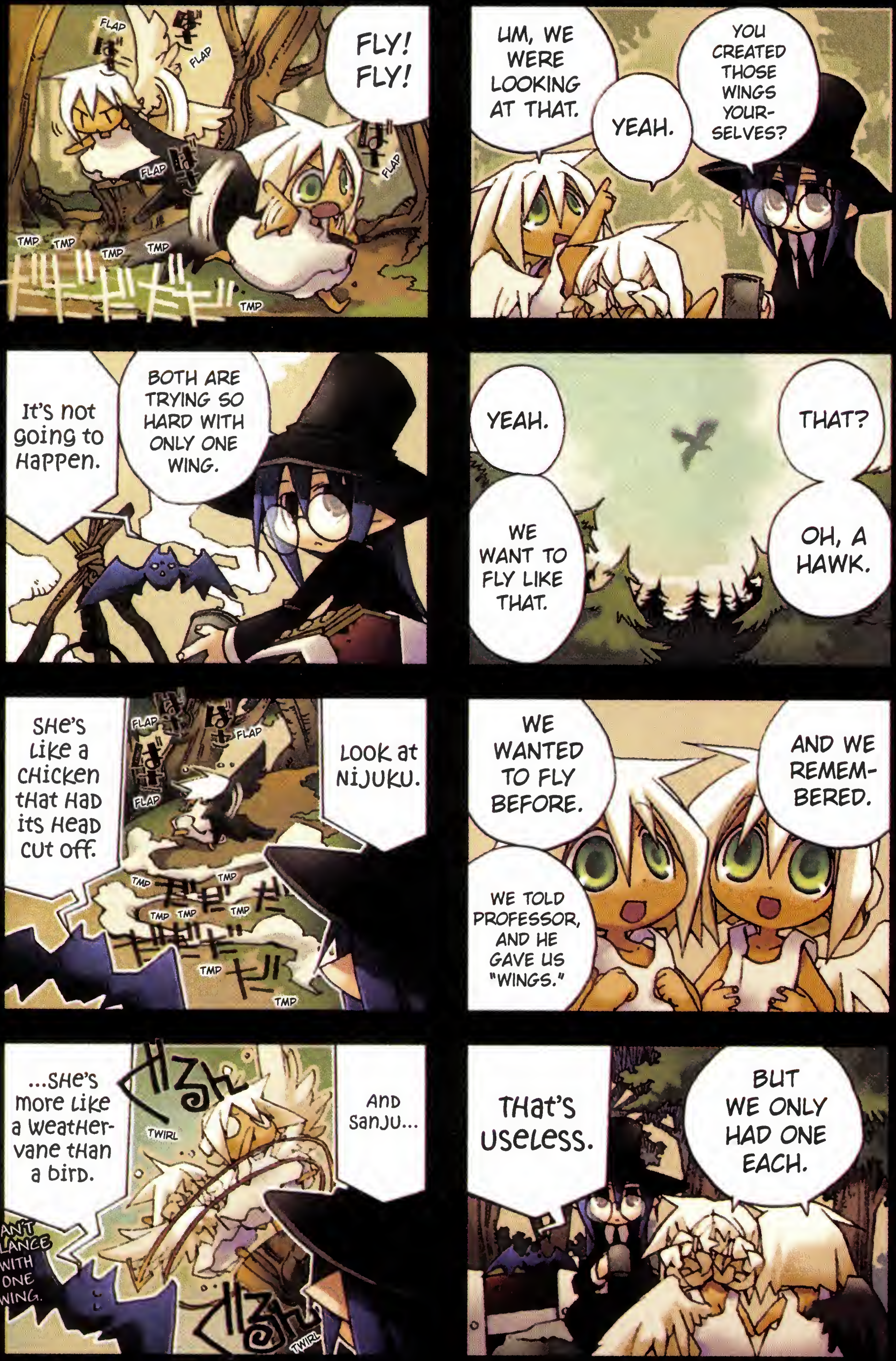
"Wow. The 'outside world' is amazing."

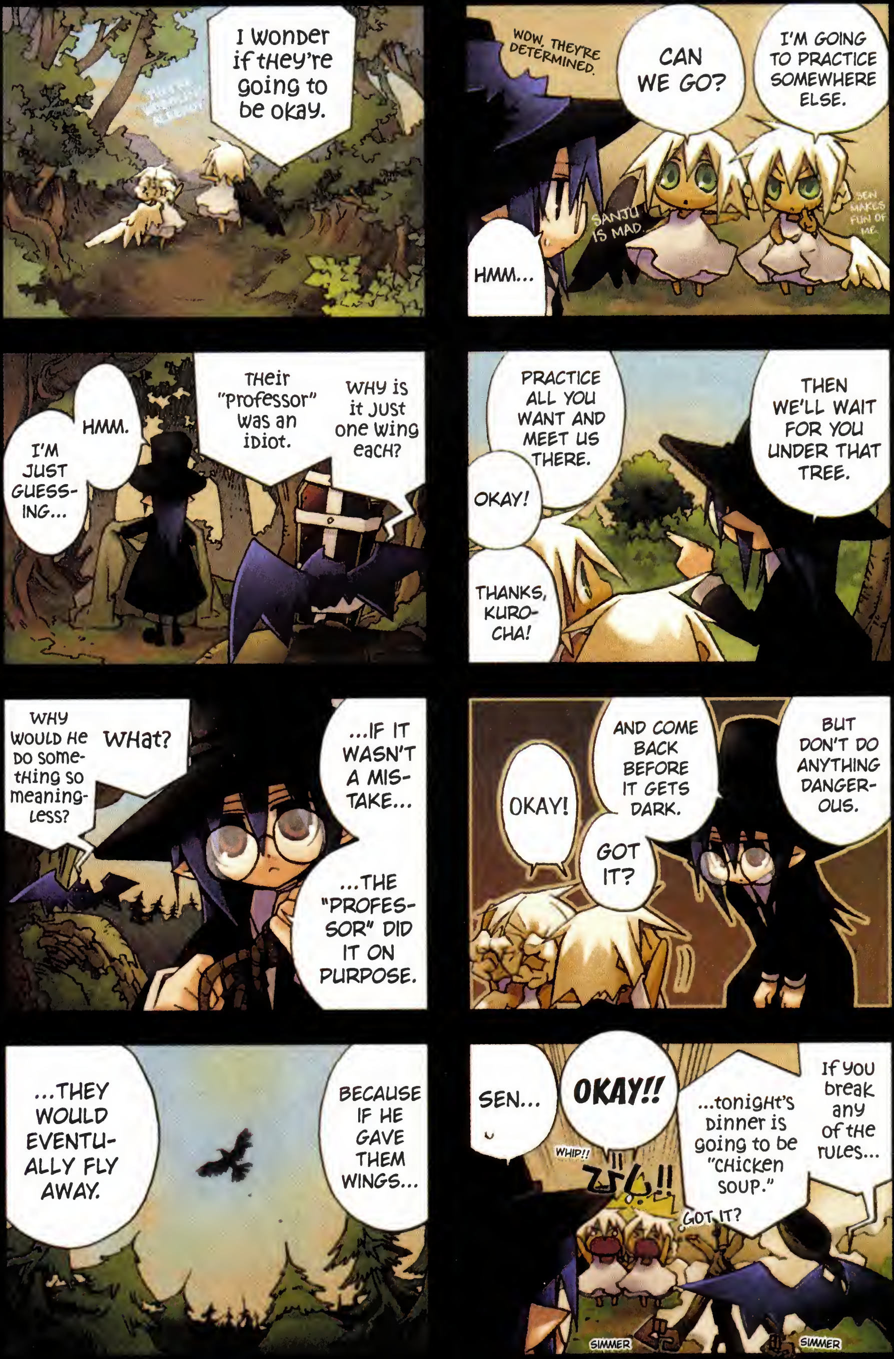
The sight was the grandest thing the children had witnessed on their journey so far.

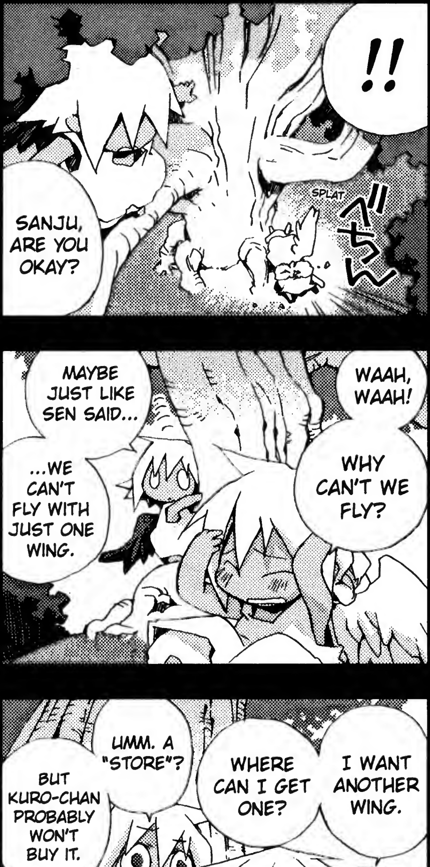

Girl
Cho: air delivery service
Traveler
Kei: a wanderer
Characters
Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro
Sen: a bat
Sanju: a child
Kuro: a traveler
Nijuku: a child

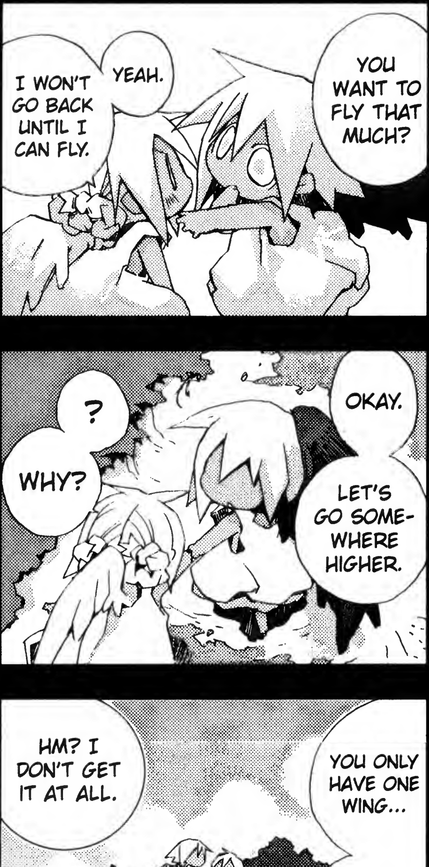

I KEEP WALKING THE ENDLESS STREETS.
I KEEP WALKING AND WALKING.
THERE ARE SOME WHO SEEK PHILOSOPHY, ADVENTURE, OR MEANING IN LIFE BY TRAVELING...
...BUT I THINK THIS IS WHAT I THOUGHT WHEN I WAS ON THE ROAD:
"IF THE WORLD WAS ONLY AS BIG AS THE PALM OF A HAND...
"...IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO TRAVEL."
Shoulder-a-Coffin
KURO

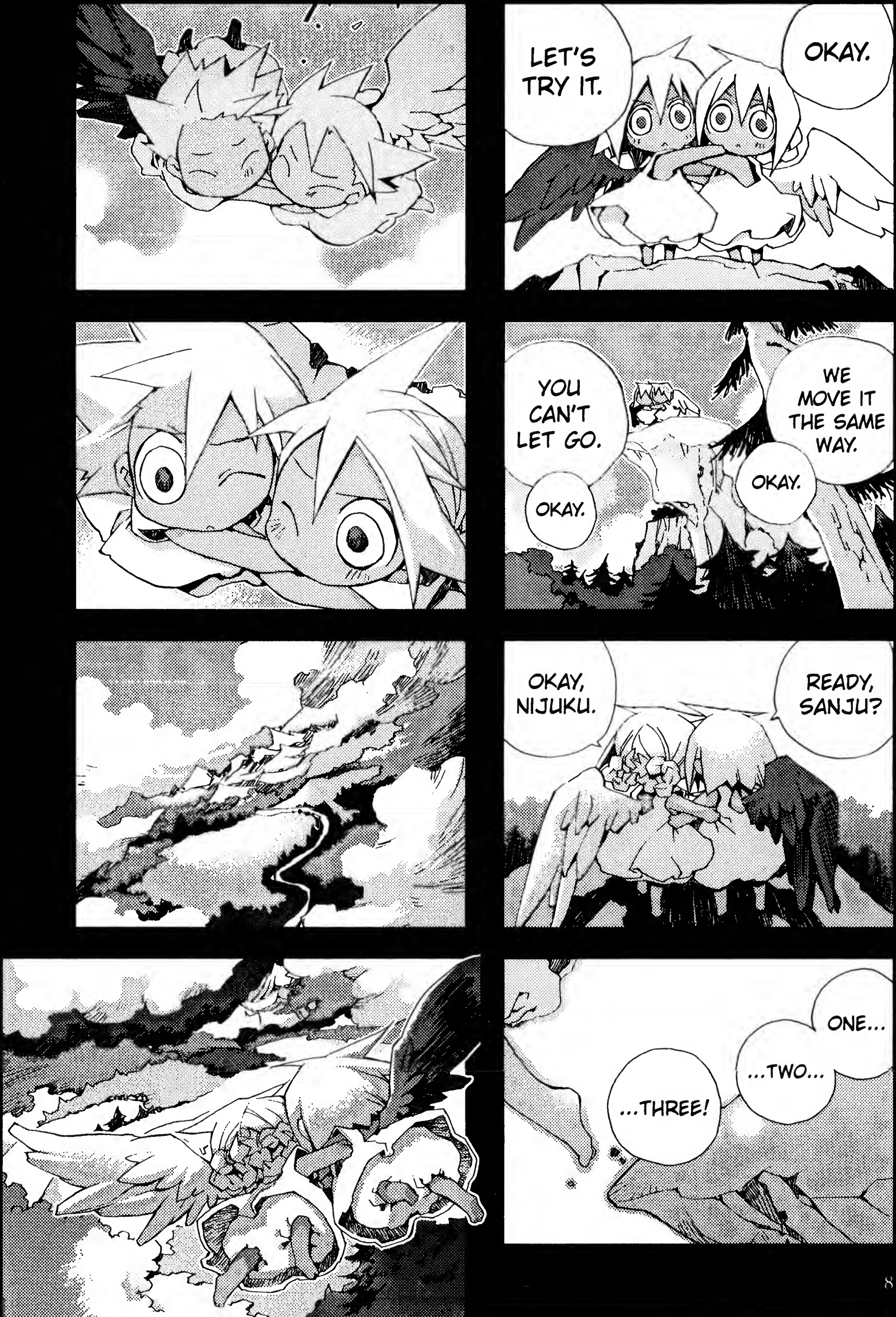

Brr. Mornings in the mountains are freezing.
MORNING, SEN.
MORNING!
Hey... HUH?
You girls look different today.
DIFFERENT?
OH, I know. You guys are missing your cat...
...ears...
WHAT THE?
WHAT THE HECK ARE THOSE!?
?
YOU'RE AWFULLY ROWDY. WHAT'S WRONG?
Kuro! The girls! wings!! They have wings!!
"WINGS"?
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHY are you so calm!?
WHEN I FIRST MET THEM...
...THEY WERE ABLE TO TURN INTO MICE.
HUH? OH yeah, that's right.
And then they were eaten by a cat, right?
THAT'S THE STORY OF THE CAT WHO WORE BOOTS.
THAT'S WHY THEY LOOK LIKE THAT!
BESIDES, YOU WEREN'T THERE THAT TIME
SIMMER
SIMMER

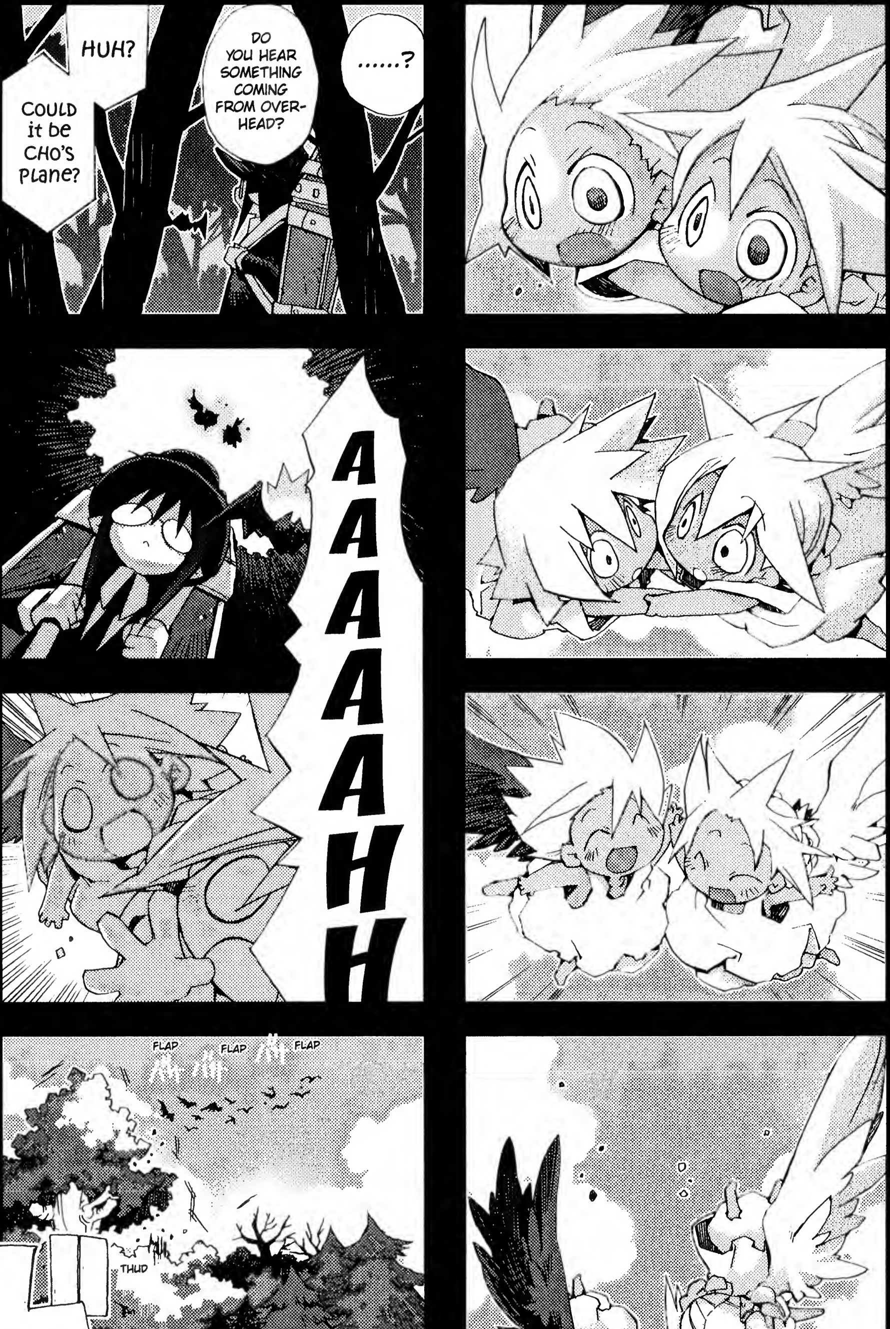

YOU CREATED THOSE WINGS YOUR-SELVES?
YEAH.
UM, WE WERE LOOKING AT THAT.
THAT?
OH, A HAWK.
YEAH.
WE WANT TO FLY LIKE THAT.
AND WE REMEM-BERED.
WE WANTED TO FLY BEFORE.
WE TOLD PROFESSOR, AND HE GAVE US "WINGS."
BUT WE ONLY HAD ONE EACH.
That's useless.
FLY! FLY!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
BOTH ARE TRYING SO HARD WITH ONLY ONE WING.
It's not going to Happen.
Look at Nijuku.
She's like a chicken that Had its Head cut off.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
And Sanju...
...she's more like a weather-vane than a bird.
くるん
TWIRL
くるん
TWIRL
CAN'T BALANCE WITH ONE WING.

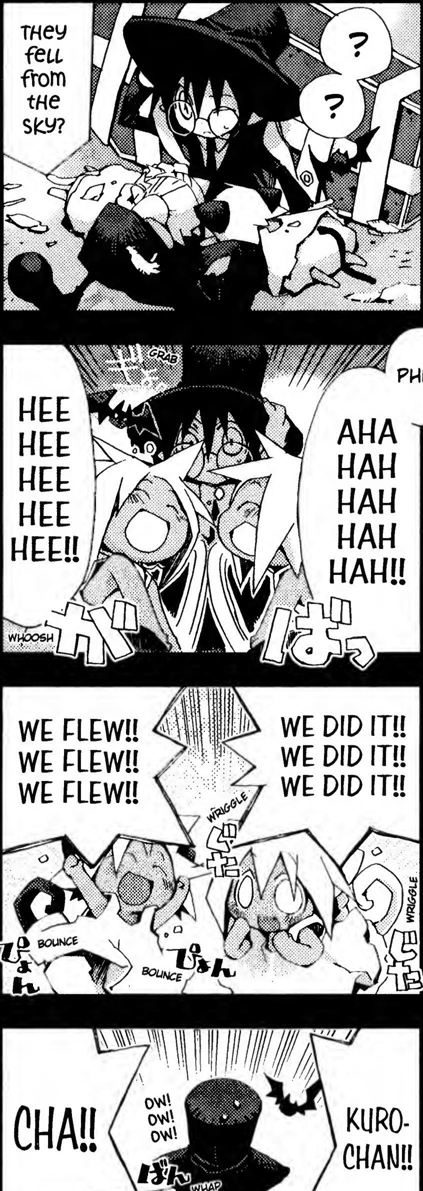

I'M GOING TO PRACTICE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
CAN WE GO?
WOW, THEY'RE DETERMINED.
SEN MAKES FUN OF ME.
SANJU IS MAD.
HMM...
THEN WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU UNDER THAT TREE.
PRACTICE ALL YOU WANT AND MEET US THERE.
OKAY!
THANKS, KURO-CHA!
BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS.
AND COME BACK BEFORE IT GETS DARK.
OKAY!
GOT IT?
If you break any of the rules...
...tonight's dinner is going to be "chicken soup."
GOT IT?
OKAY!!
SEN...
WHIP!!
ズシ!!
SIMMER
SIMMER
I wonder if they're going to be okay.
Why is it just one wing each?
Their "professor" was an idiot.
HMM.
I'M JUST GUESSING...
...IF IT WASN'T A MISTAKE...
...THE "PROFESSOR" DID IT ON PURPOSE.
What?
Why would he do something so meaningless?
BECAUSE IF HE GAVE THEM WINGS...
...THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY FLY AWAY.

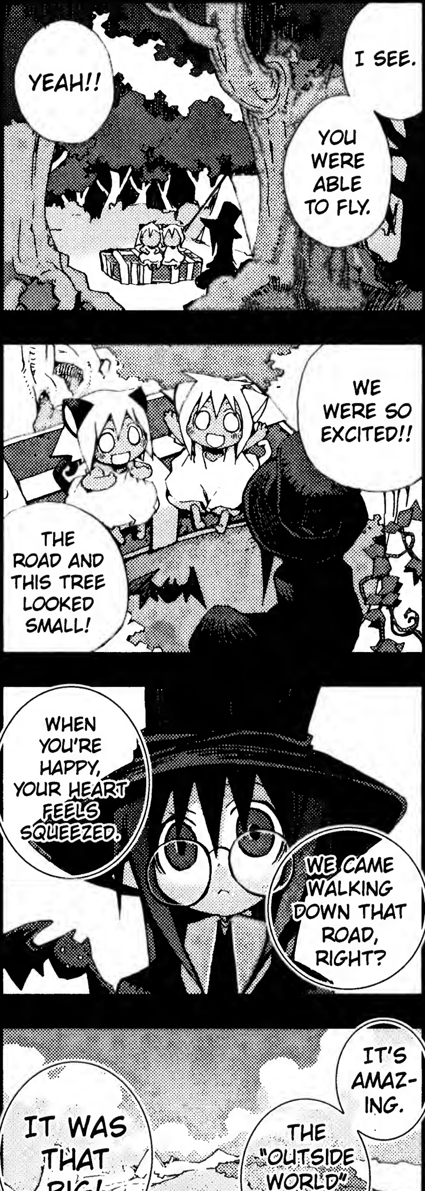

!!
SANJU, ARE YOU OKAY?
ヘシャン
SPLAT
WAAH, WAAH!
WHY CAN'T WE FLY?
MAYBE JUST LIKE SEN SAID...
...WE CAN'T FLY WITH JUST ONE WING.
I WANT ANOTHER WING.
WHERE CAN I GET ONE?
UMM. A "STORE"?
BUT KURO-CHAN PROBABLY WON'T BUY IT.
HOW ABOUT SEN?
THERE'S A LOT OF HIM, SO MAYBE HE'LL GIVE US A WING.
NO!!

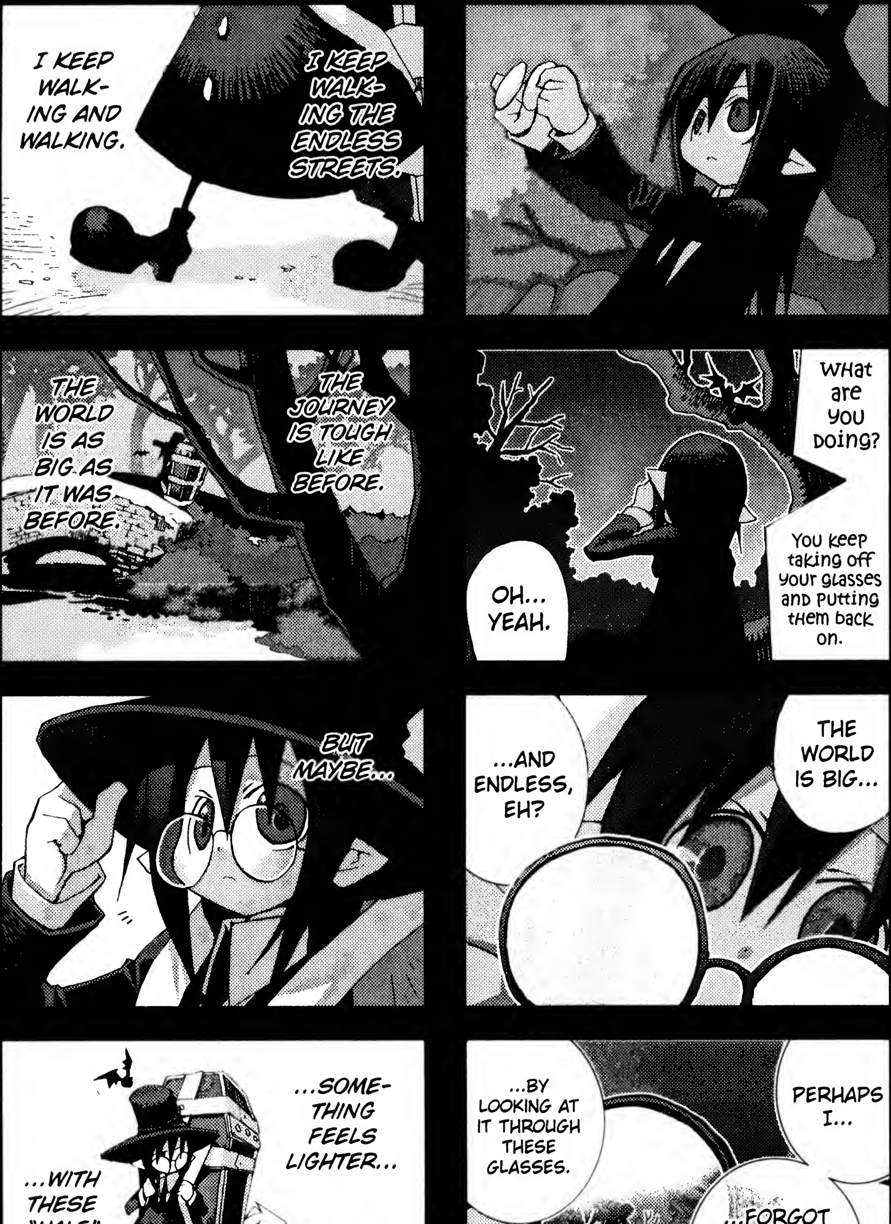

YOU WANT TO FLY THAT MUCH?
YEAH.
I WON'T GO BACK UNTIL I CAN FLY.
OKAY.
LET'S GO SOME-WHERE HIGHER.
?
WHY?
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE WING...
...BUT SINCE I HAVE ONE TOO, IT'S A PAIR.
HM? I DON'T GET IT AT ALL.
YOU HAVE ME.
I'LL BE YOUR OTHER WING.
LET'S FLY TO-GETHER.

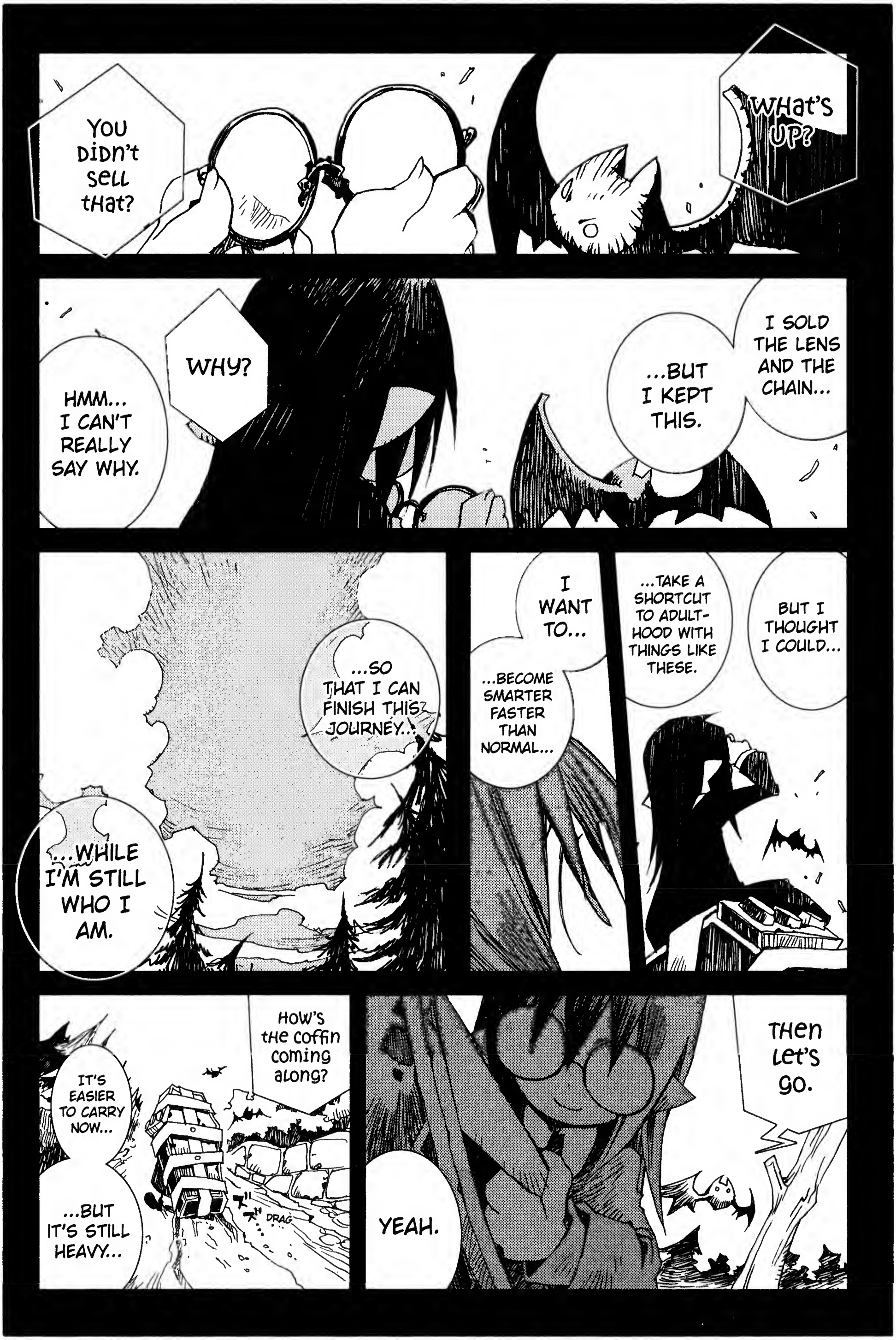

OKAY.
LET'S TRY IT.
WE MOVE IT THE SAME WAY.
OKAY.
YOU CAN'T LET GO.
OKAY.
READY, SANJU?
OKAY, NIJUKU.
ONE...
...TWO...
...THREE!

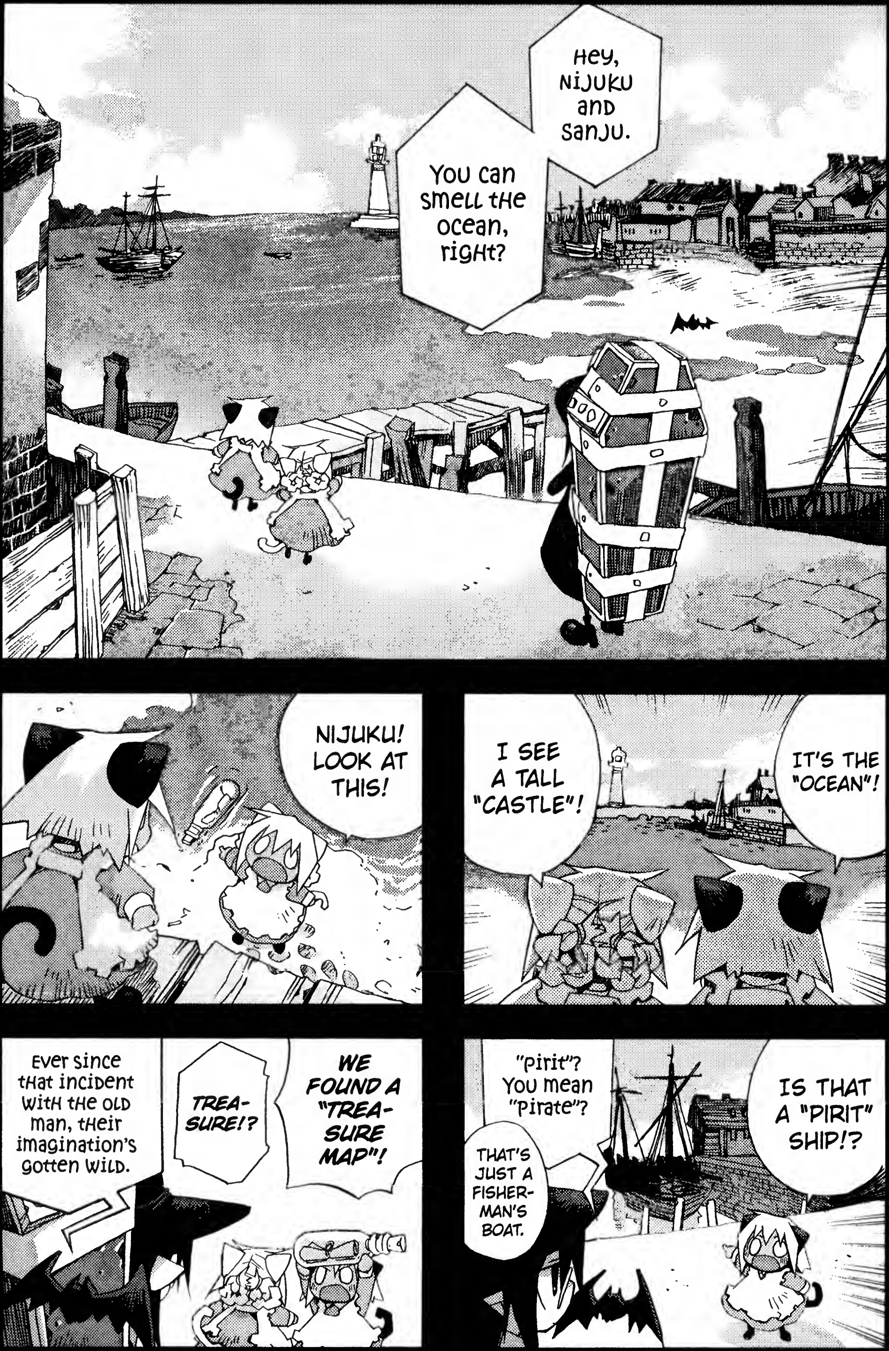

......?
DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING COMING FROM OVERHEAD?
HUH?
COULD it be CHO'S PLane?
AAAAAAAH
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
THUD

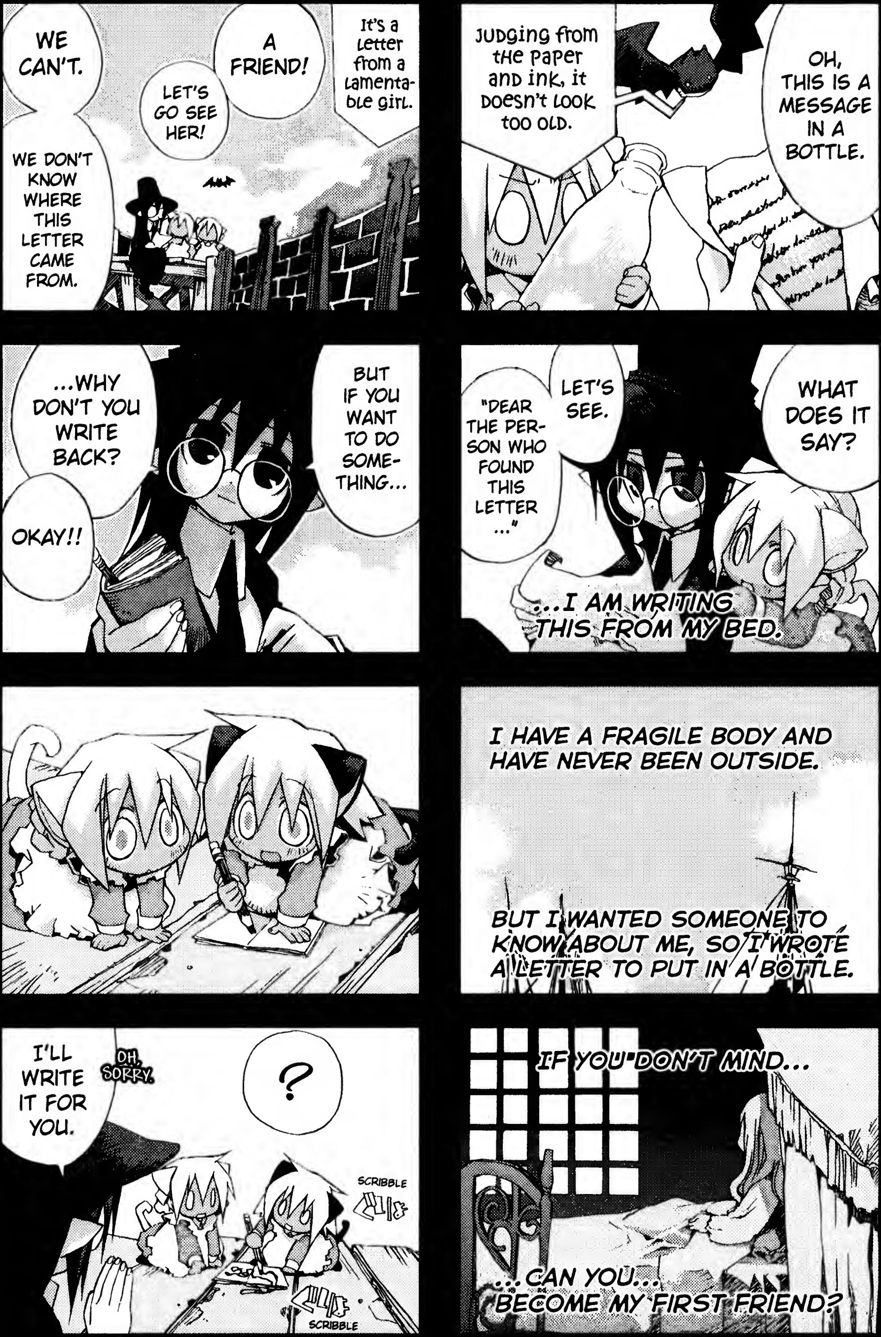

?
?
THEY FELL FROM THE SKY?
PHEW.
AHA HAH HAH HAH HAH!!
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!!
GRAB
WHOOSH
がばっ
WE DID IT!! WE DID IT!! WE DID IT!!
WE FLEW!! WE FLEW!! WE FLEW!!
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
BOUNCE
ぴょん
BOUNCE
ぴょん
KURO-CHAN!!
OW! OW! OW!
CHA!!
ばん
WHAP
WHAP
ばん
WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO?
SQUEEZE

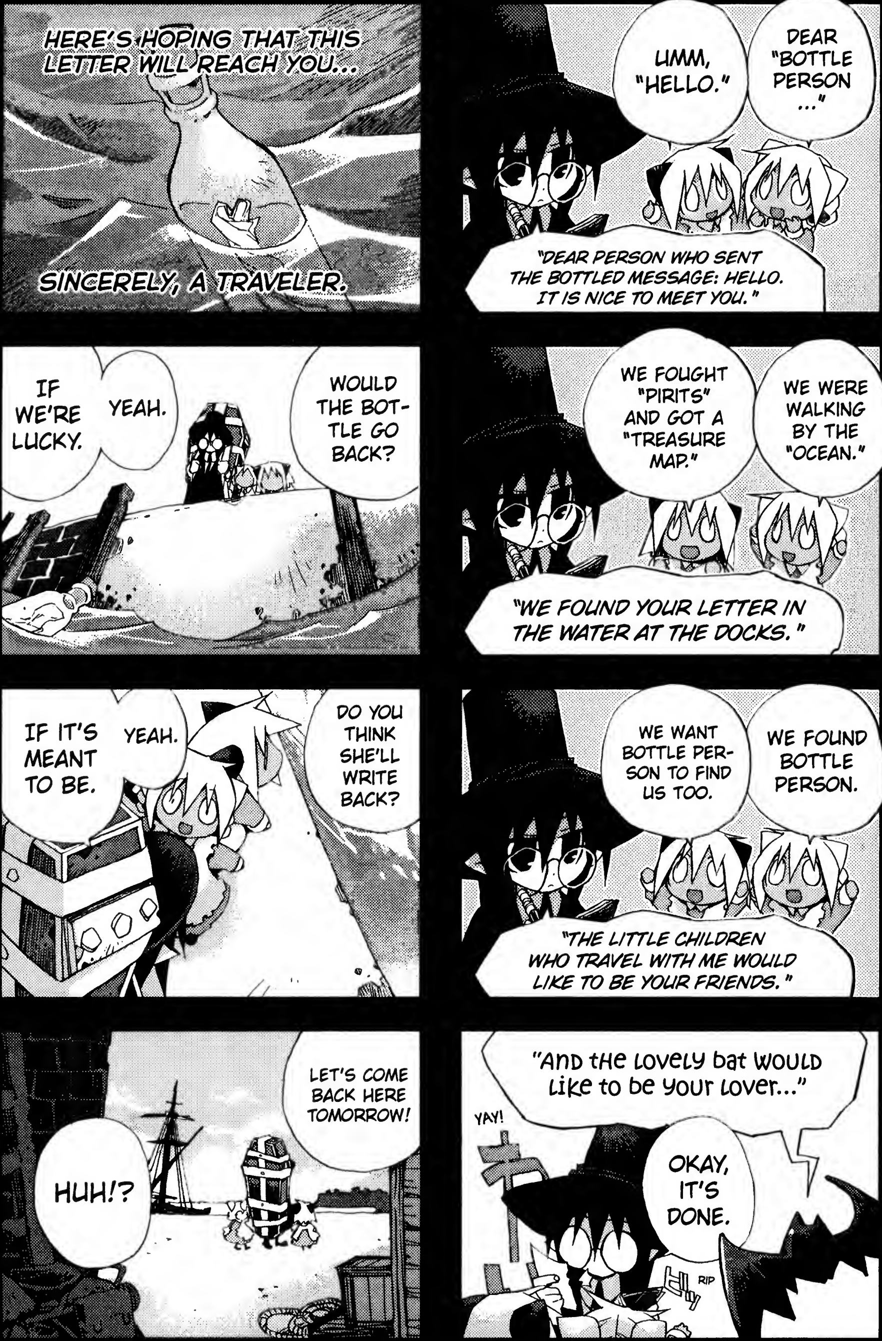

I SEE.
YOU WERE ABLE TO FLY.
YEAH!!
WE WERE SO EXCITED!!
THE ROAD AND THIS TREE LOOKED SMALL!
WE CAME WALKING DOWN THAT ROAD, RIGHT?
WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY, YOUR HEART FEELS SQUEEZED.
IT'S AMAZING.
THE "OUTSIDE WORLD" IS AMAZING.
IT WAS THAT BIG!

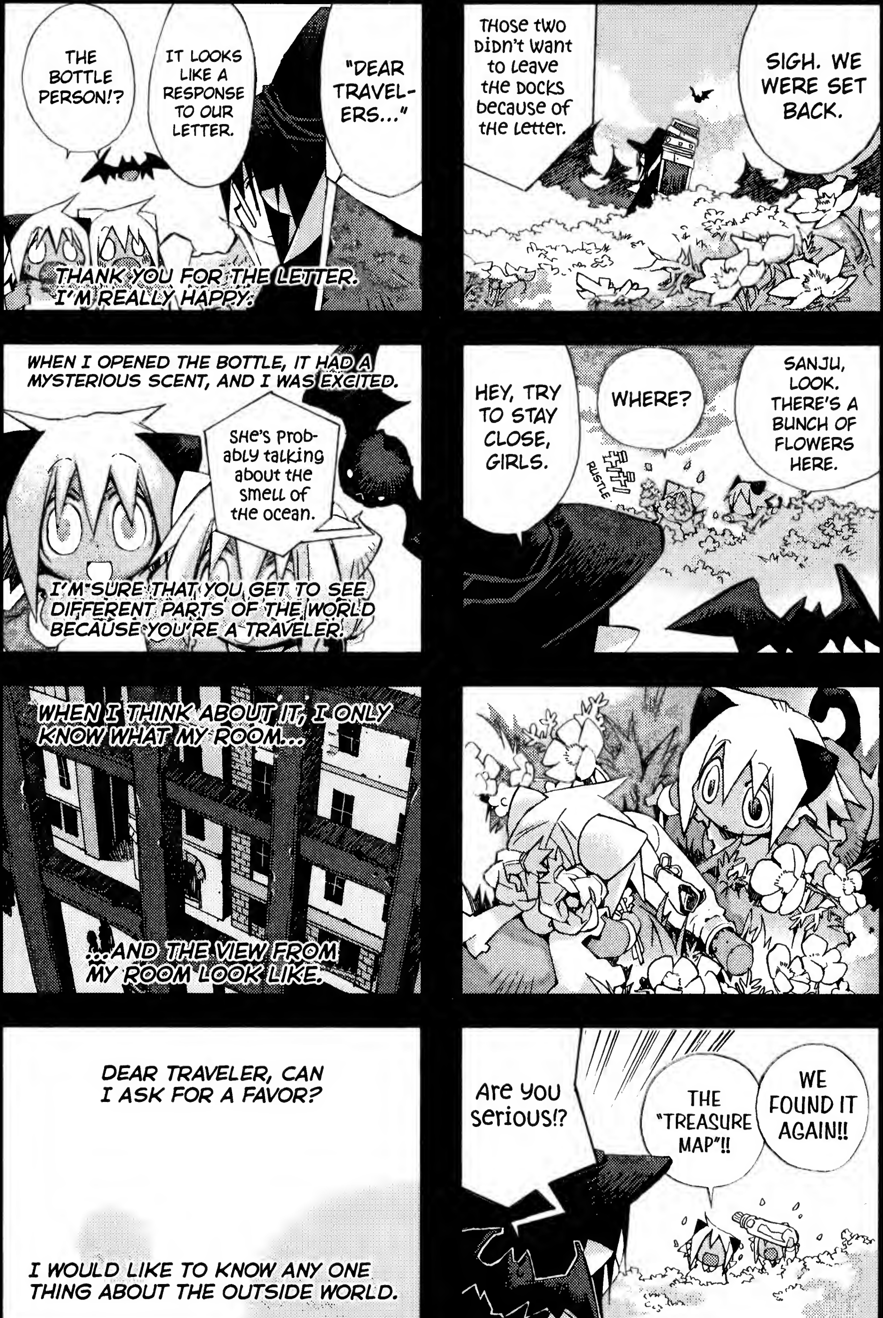

What are you doing?
You keep taking off your glasses and putting them back on.
OH... YEAH.
THE WORLD IS BIG...
...AND ENDLESS, EH?
PERHAPS I...
...FORGOT ABOUT HOW BIG THIS WORLD IS...
...BY LOOKING AT IT THROUGH THESE GLASSES.
I KEEP WALKING THE ENDLESS STREETS.
I KEEP WALKING AND WALKING.
THE JOURNEY IS TOUGH LIKE BEFORE.
THE WORLD IS AS BIG AS IT WAS BEFORE.
BUT MAYBE...
...SOMETHING FEELS LIGHTER...
...WITH THESE "HALF" WINGS.

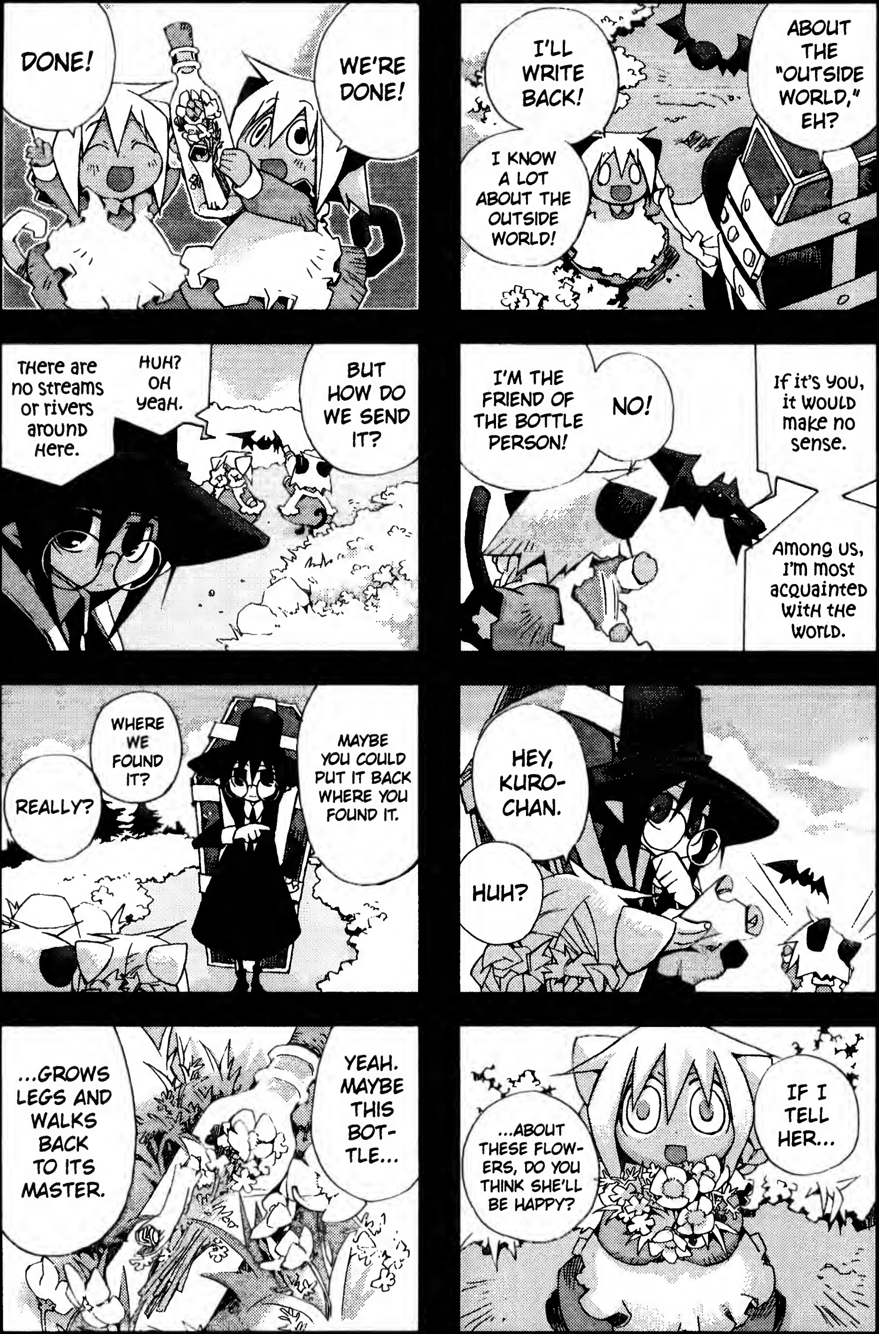

What's up?
You didn't sell that?
I SOLD THE LENS AND THE CHAIN...
...BUT I KEPT THIS.
WHY?
HMM... I CAN'T REALLY SAY WHY.
BUT I THOUGHT I COULD...
...TAKE A SHORTCUT TO ADULTHOOD WITH THINGS LIKE THESE.
I WANT TO...
...BECOME SMARTER FASTER THAN NORMAL...
...SO THAT I CAN FINISH THIS JOURNEY...
...WHILE I'M STILL WHO I AM.
Then let's go.
YEAH.
How's the coffin coming along?
IT'S EASIER TO CARRY NOW...
...BUT IT'S STILL HEAVY...
DRAG

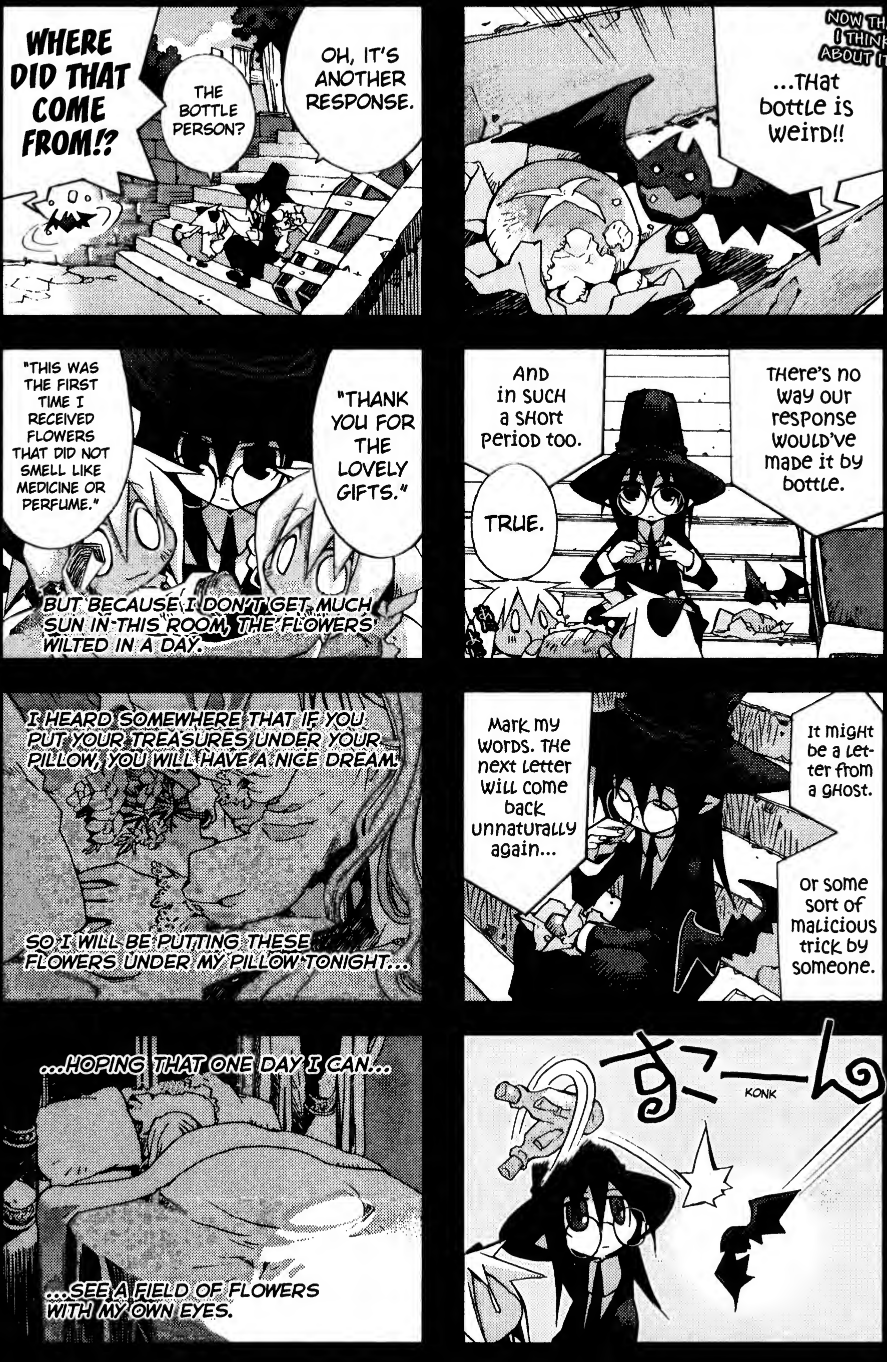

Hey, Nijuku and Sanju.
You can smell the ocean, right?
IT'S THE "OCEAN"!
I SEE A TALL "CASTLE"!
NIJUKU! LOOK AT THIS!
IS THAT A "PIRIT" SHIP!?
"pirit"? You mean "pirate"?
THAT'S JUST A FISHERMAN'S BOAT.
WE FOUND A "TREASURE MAP"!
TREASURE!?
Ever since that incident with the old man, their imagination's gotten wild.

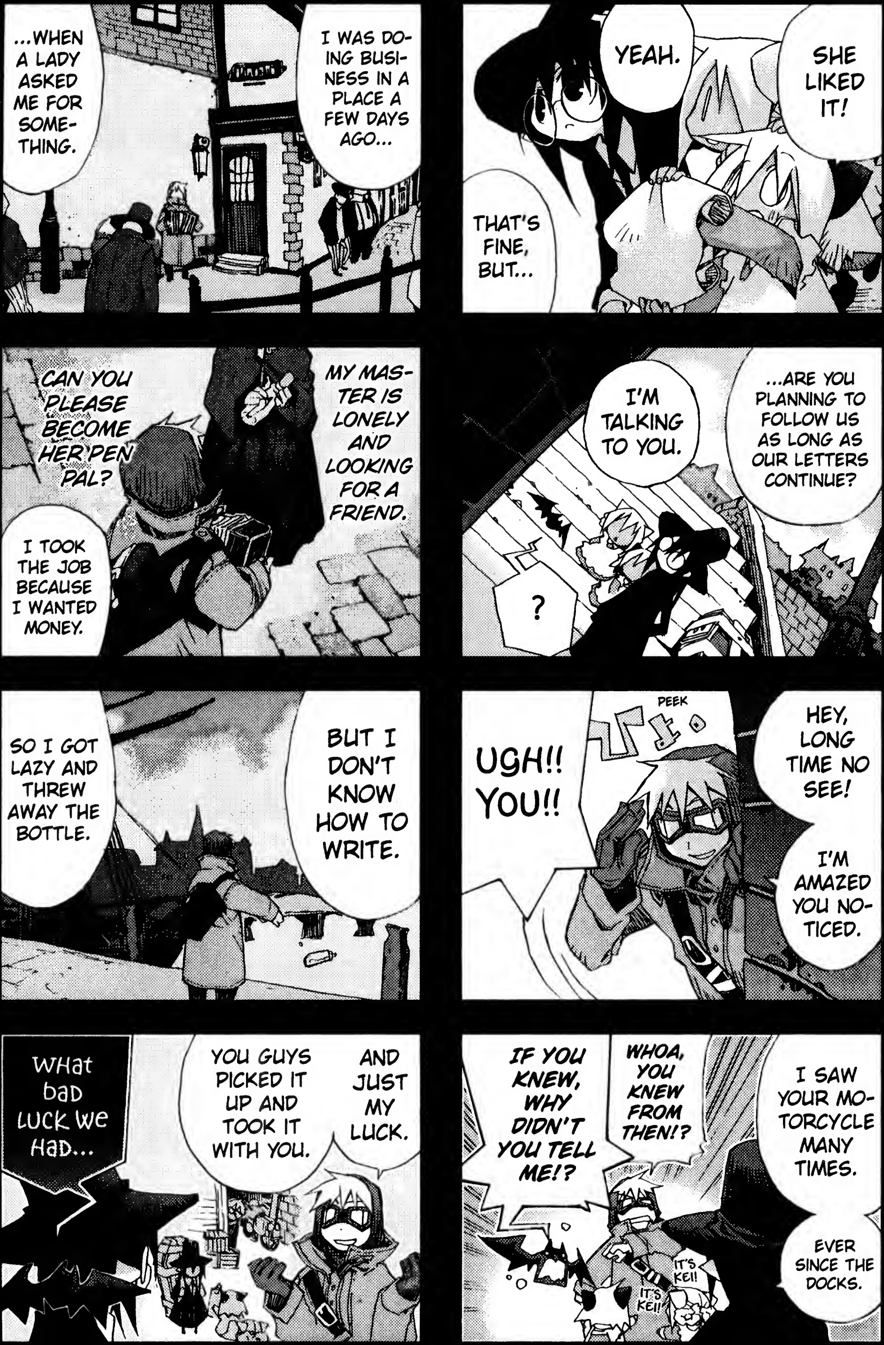

OH, THIS IS A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.
Judging from the paper and ink, it doesn't look too old.
It's a letter from a lamentable girl.
A FRIEND!
LET'S GO SEE HER!
WE CAN'T.
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS LETTER CAME FROM.
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
LET'S SEE.
"DEAR THE PERSON WHO FOUND THIS LETTER..."
...I AM WRITING THIS FROM MY BED.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING...
...WHY DON'T YOU WRITE BACK?
OKAY!!
I HAVE A FRAGILE BODY AND HAVE NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE.
BUT I WANTED SOMEONE TO KNOW ABOUT ME, SO I WROTE A LETTER TO PUT IN A BOTTLE.
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
...CAN YOU... BECOME MY FIRST FRIEND?
?
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
OH, SORRY.
I'LL WRITE IT FOR YOU.

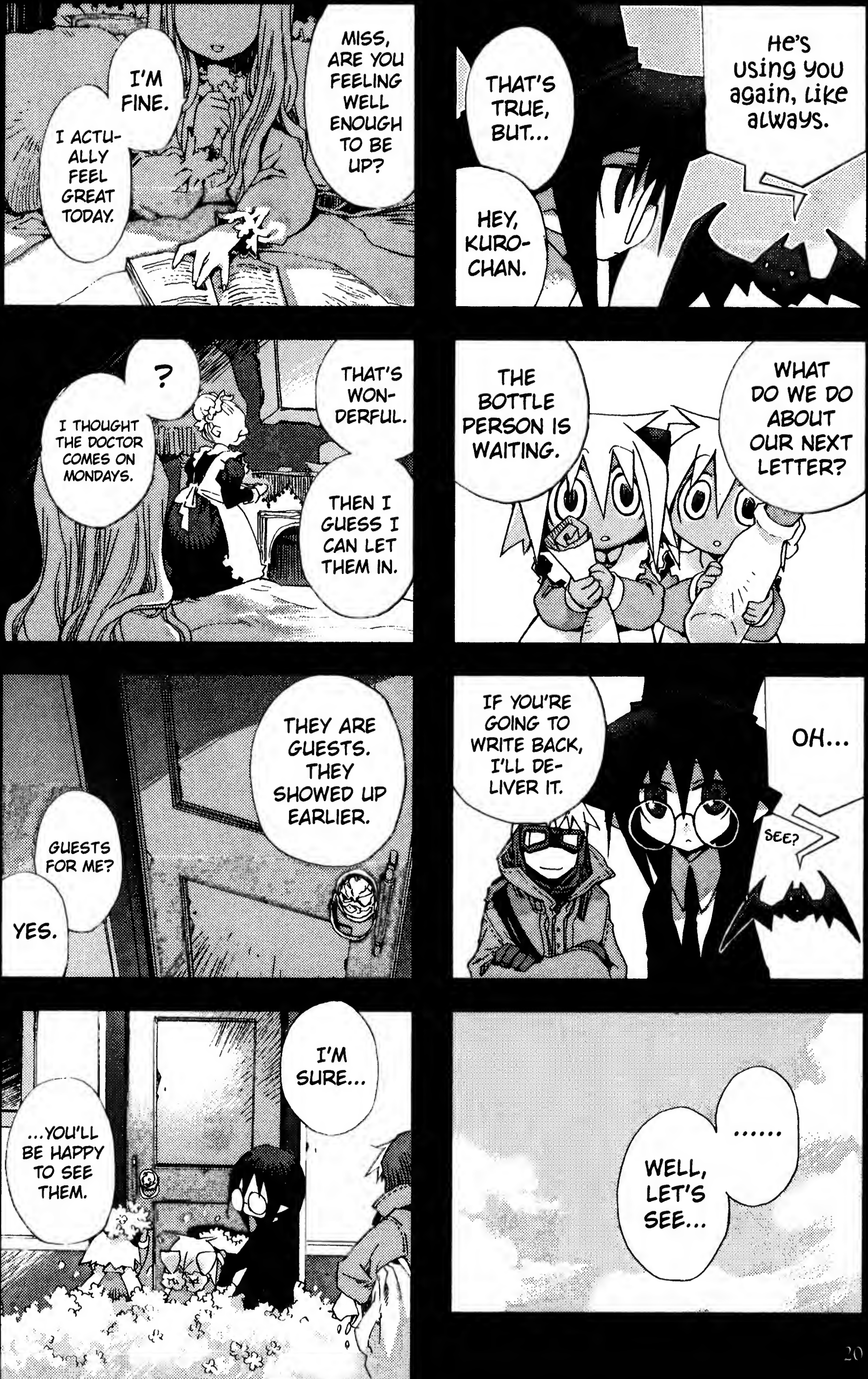

DEAR "BOTTLE PERSON ..."
UMM, "HELLO."
"DEAR PERSON WHO SENT THE BOTTLED MESSAGE: HELLO. IT IS NICE TO MEET YOU."
WE WERE WALKING BY THE "OCEAN."
WE FOUGHT "PIRITS" AND GOT A "TREASURE MAP."
"WE FOUND YOUR LETTER IN THE WATER AT THE DOCKS."
WE FOUND BOTTLE PERSON.
WE WANT BOTTLE PERSON TO FIND US TOO.
"THE LITTLE CHILDREN WHO TRAVEL WITH ME WOULD LIKE TO BE YOUR FRIENDS."
"And the lovely bat would like to be your lover..."
YAY!
OKAY, IT'S DONE.
RIP
HERE'S HOPING THAT THIS LETTER WILL REACH YOU...
SINCERELY, A TRAVELER.
WOULD THE BOTTLE GO BACK?
YEAH.
IF WE'RE LUCKY.
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL WRITE BACK?
YEAH.
IF IT'S MEANT TO BE.
LET'S COME BACK HERE TOMORROW!
HUH!?

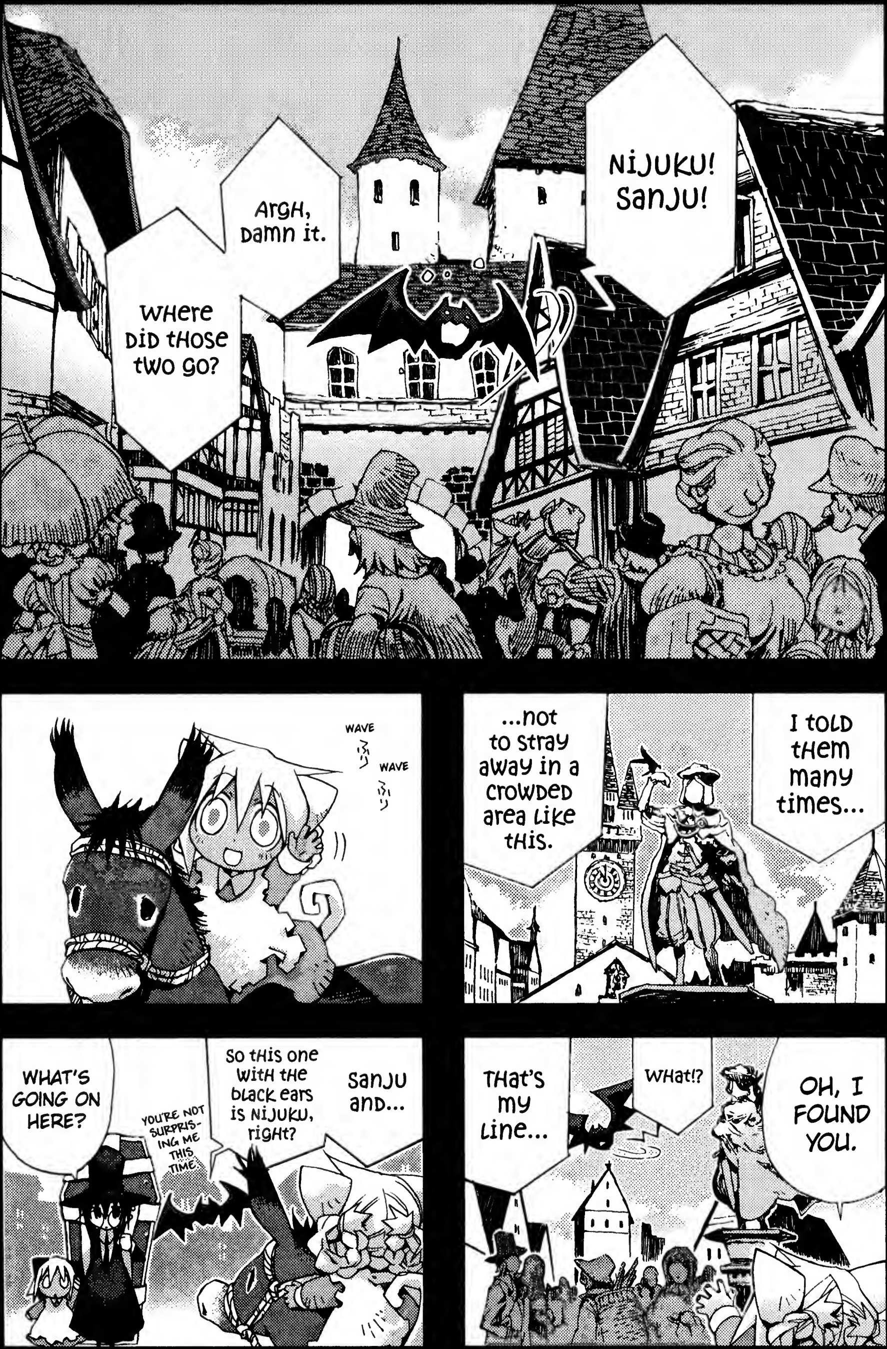

SIGH. WE WERE SET BACK.
THOSE TWO DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THE DOCKS BECAUSE OF THE LETTER.
"DEAR TRAVELERS..."
IT LOOKS LIKE A RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER.
THE BOTTLE PERSON!?
THANK YOU FOR THE LETTER. I'M REALLY HAPPY.
SANJU, LOOK. THERE'S A BUNCH OF FLOWERS HERE.
WHERE?
HEY, TRY TO STAY CLOSE, GIRLS.
RUSTLE
WHEN I OPENED THE BOTTLE, IT HAD A MYSTERIOUS SCENT, AND I WAS EXCITED.
SHE'S PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT THE SMELL OF THE OCEAN.
I'M SURE THAT YOU GET TO SEE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD BECAUSE YOU'RE A TRAVELER.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I ONLY KNOW WHAT MY ROOM...
...AND THE VIEW FROM MY ROOM LOOK LIKE.
WE FOUND IT AGAIN!!
THE "TREASURE MAP"!!
Are you serious!?
DEAR TRAVELER, CAN I ASK FOR A FAVOR?
I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ANY ONE THING ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

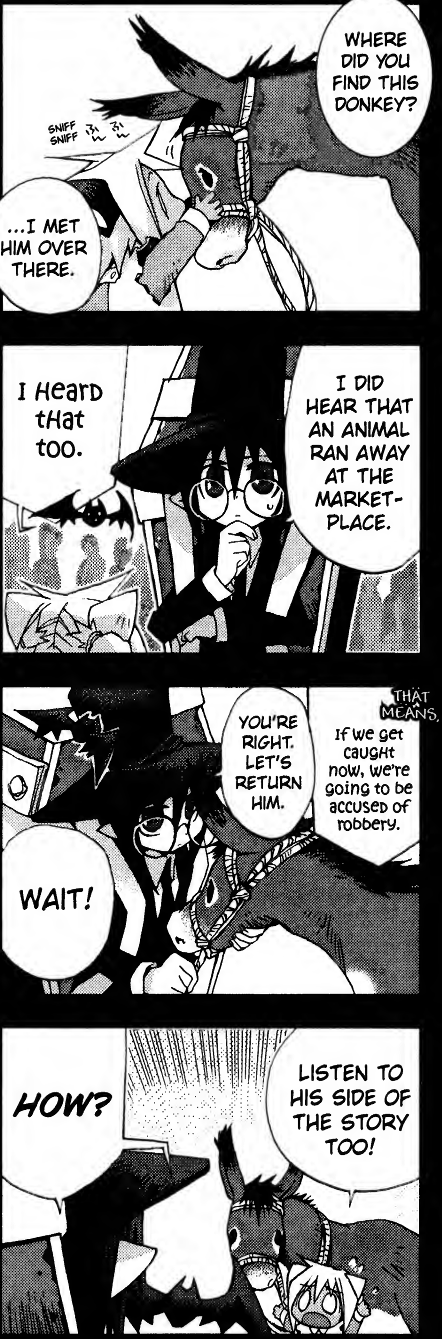

ABOUT THE "OUTSIDE WORLD," EH?
I'LL WRITE BACK!
I KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
If it's you, it would make no sense.
Among us, I'm most acquainted with the world.
NO!
I'M THE FRIEND OF THE BOTTLE PERSON!
HEY, KURO-CHAN.
HUH?
IF I TELL HER...
...ABOUT THESE FLOWERS, DO YOU THINK SHE'LL BE HAPPY?
WE'RE DONE!
DONE!
BUT HOW DO WE SEND IT?
HUH? OH yeah.
There are no streams or rivers around Here.
MAYBE YOU COULD PUT IT BACK WHERE YOU FOUND IT.
WHERE WE FOUND IT?
REALLY?
YEAH. MAYBE THIS BOTTLE...
...GROWS LEGS AND WALKS BACK TO ITS MASTER.

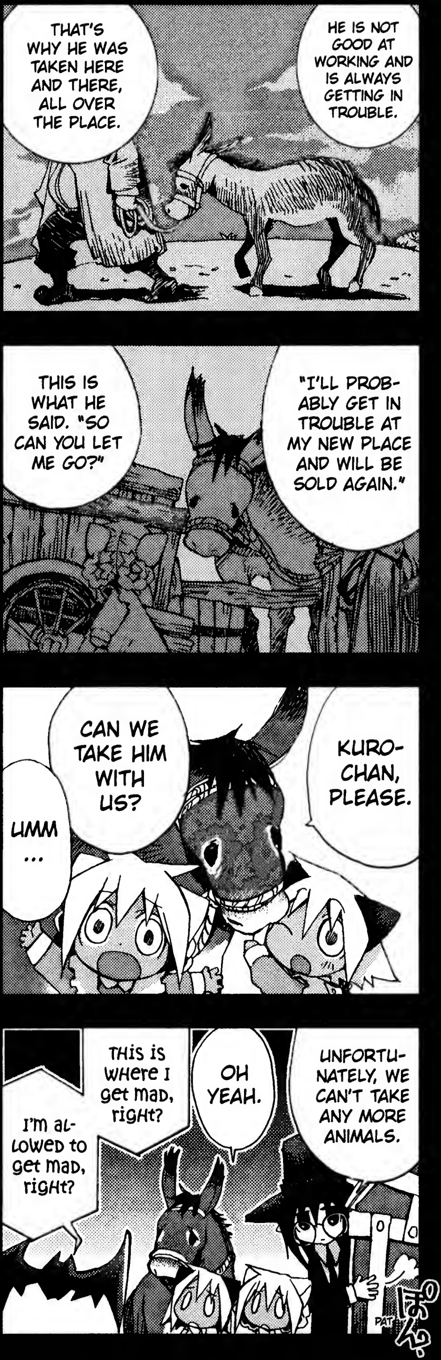

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM!?
THE BOTTLE PERSON?
OH, IT'S ANOTHER RESPONSE.
"THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I RECEIVED FLOWERS THAT DID NOT SMELL LIKE MEDICINE OR PERFUME."
"THANK YOU FOR THE LOVELY GIFTS."
BUT BECAUSE I DON'T GET MUCH SUN IN THIS ROOM, THE FLOWERS WILTED IN A DAY.
I HEARD SOMEWHERE THAT IF YOU PUT YOUR TREASURES UNDER YOUR PILLOW, YOU WILL HAVE A NICE DREAM.
SO I WILL BE PUTTING THESE FLOWERS UNDER MY PILLOW TONIGHT...
...HOPING THAT ONE DAY I CAN...
...SEE A FIELD OF FLOWERS WITH MY OWN EYES.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...That bottle is weird!!
And in such a short period too.
There's no way our response would've made it by bottle.
TRUE.
Mark my words. The next letter will come back unnaturally again...
It might be a letter from a ghost.
Or some sort of malicious trick by someone.
すこーん
KONK

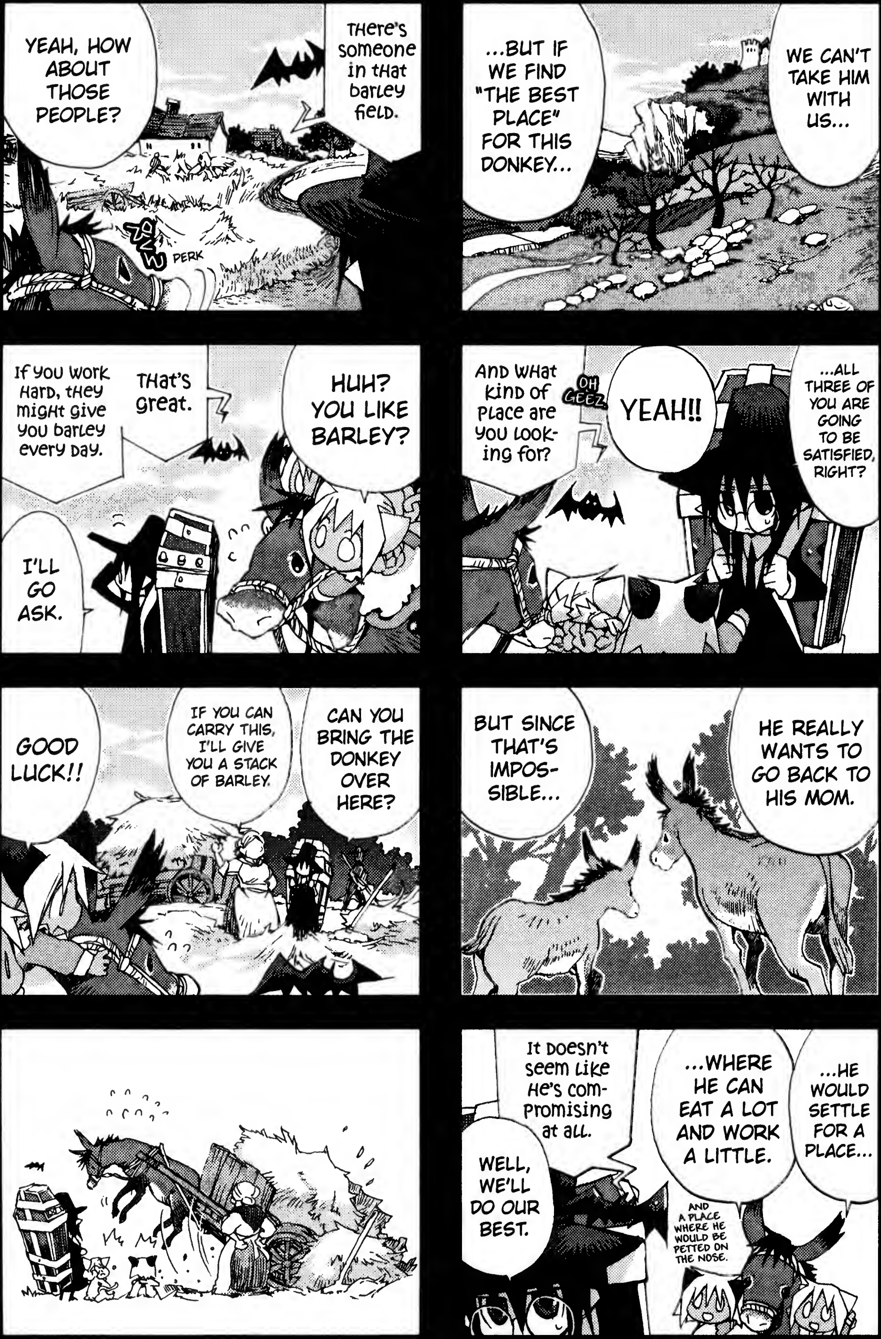

SHE LIKED IT!
YEAH.
THAT'S FINE, BUT...
...ARE YOU PLANNING TO FOLLOW US AS LONG AS OUR LETTERS CONTINUE?
I'M TALKING TO YOU.
?
HEY, LONG TIME NO SEE!
I'M AMAZED YOU NOTICED.
PEEK
UGH!! YOU!!
I SAW YOUR MOTORCYCLE MANY TIMES.
EVER SINCE THE DOCKS.
WHOA, YOU KNEW FROM THEN!?
IF YOU KNEW, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME!?
IT'S KEI!!
IT'S KEI!!
I WAS DOING BUSINESS IN A PLACE A FEW DAYS AGO...
...WHEN A LADY ASKED ME FOR SOMETHING.
MY MASTER IS LONELY AND LOOKING FOR A FRIEND.
CAN YOU PLEASE BECOME HER PEN PAL?
I TOOK THE JOB BECAUSE I WANTED MONEY.
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE.
SO I GOT LAZY AND THREW AWAY THE BOTTLE.
AND JUST MY LUCK.
YOU GUYS PICKED IT UP AND TOOK IT WITH YOU.
What bad luck we had...

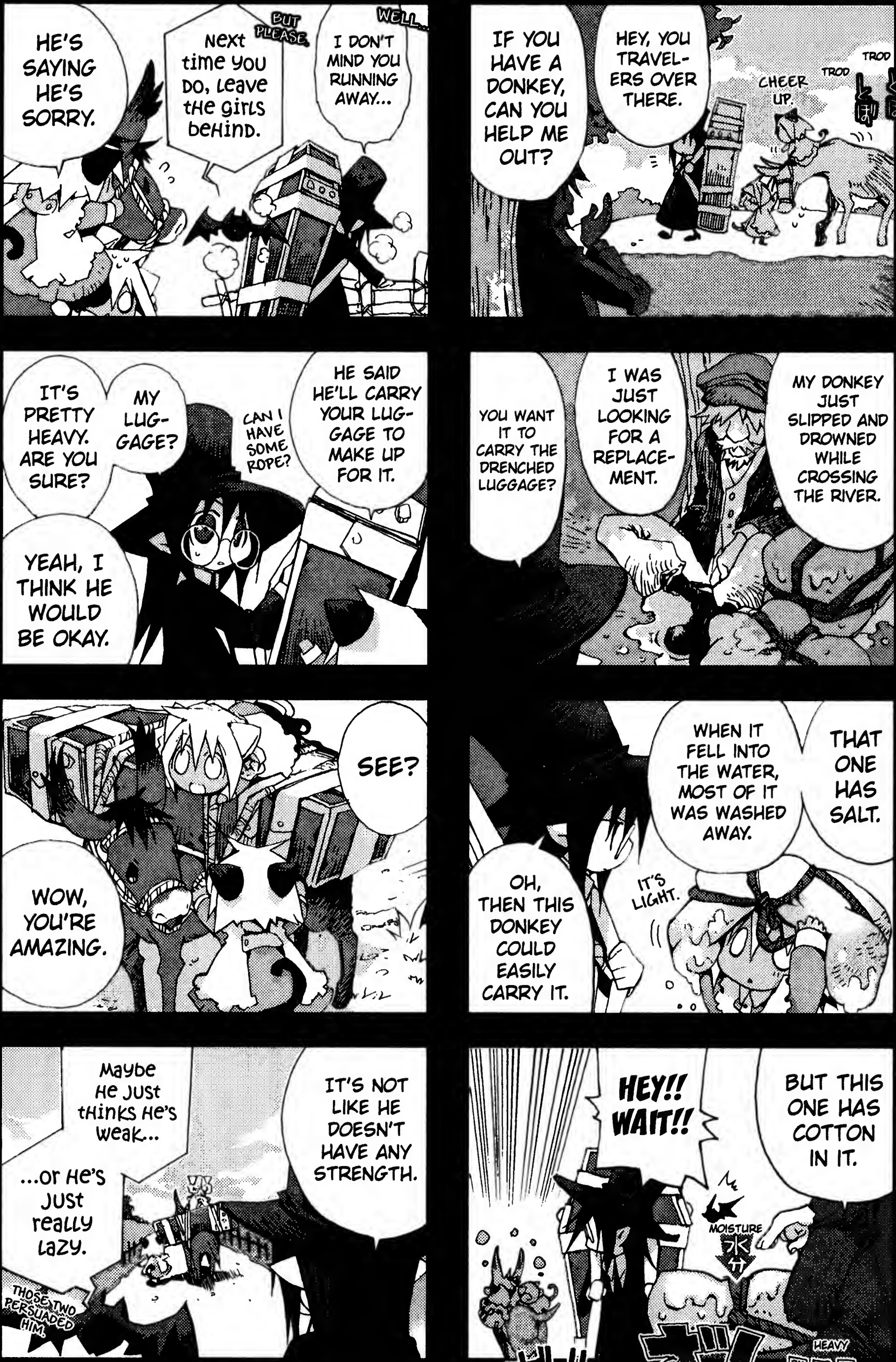

He's using you again, like always.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
HEY, KURO-CHAN.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT OUR NEXT LETTER?
THE BOTTLE PERSON IS WAITING.
OH...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE BACK, I'LL DELIVER IT.
SEE?
......
WELL, LET'S SEE...
MISS, ARE YOU FEELING WELL ENOUGH TO BE UP?
I'M FINE.
I ACTUALLY FEEL GREAT TODAY.
THAT'S WONDERFUL.
THEN I GUESS I CAN LET THEM IN.
?
I THOUGHT THE DOCTOR COMES ON MONDAYS.
THEY ARE GUESTS. THEY SHOWED UP EARLIER.
GUESTS FOR ME?
YES.
I'M SURE...
...YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE THEM.

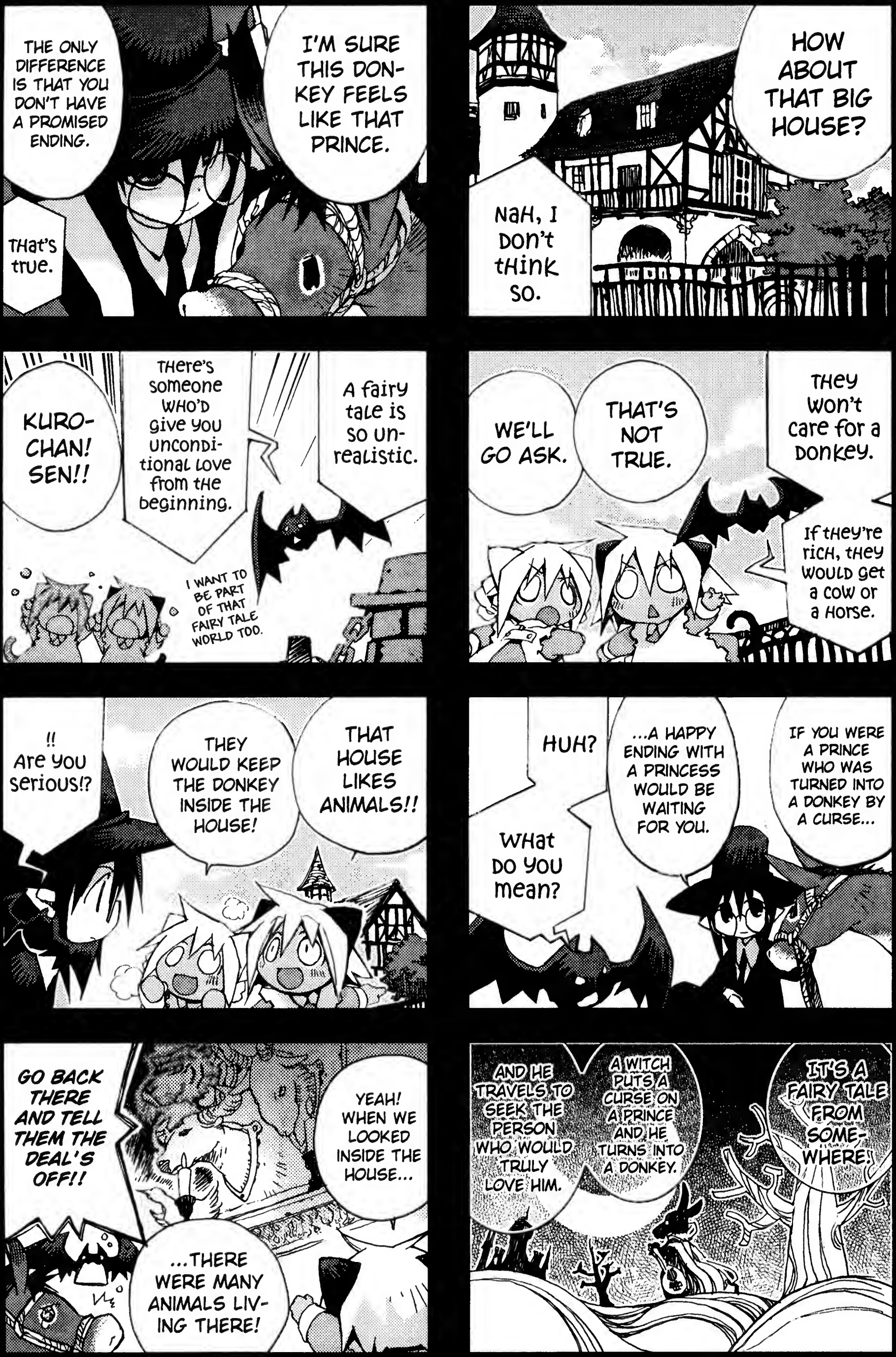

NIJUKU! SANJU!
Argh, damn it.
Where did those two go?
I told them many times...
...not to stray away in a crowded area like this.
WAVE ふり
WAVE ふり
OH, I FOUND YOU.
WHAT!?
THAT'S my line...
Sanju and...
So this one with the black ears is Nijuku, right?
YOU'RE NOT SURPRISING ME THIS TIME.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

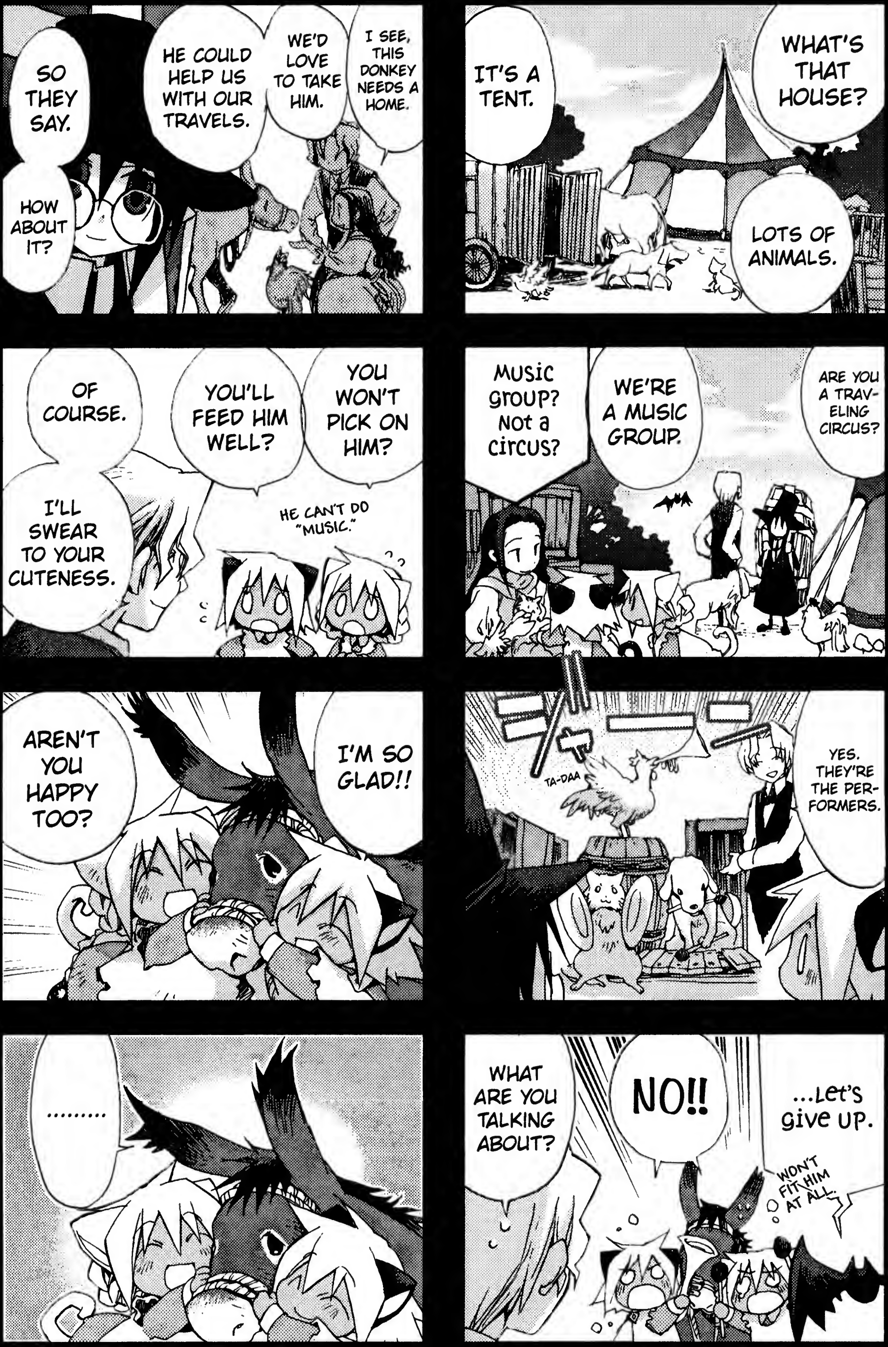

WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS DONKEY?
SNIFF SNIFF
ふん ふん
...I MET HIM OVER THERE.
I DID HEAR THAT AN ANIMAL RAN AWAY AT THE MARKETPLACE.
I Heard tHat too.
THAT MEANS,
If we get caught now, we're going to be accused of robbery.
YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S RETURN HIM.
WAIT!
LISTEN TO HIS SIDE OF THE STORY TOO!
HOW?

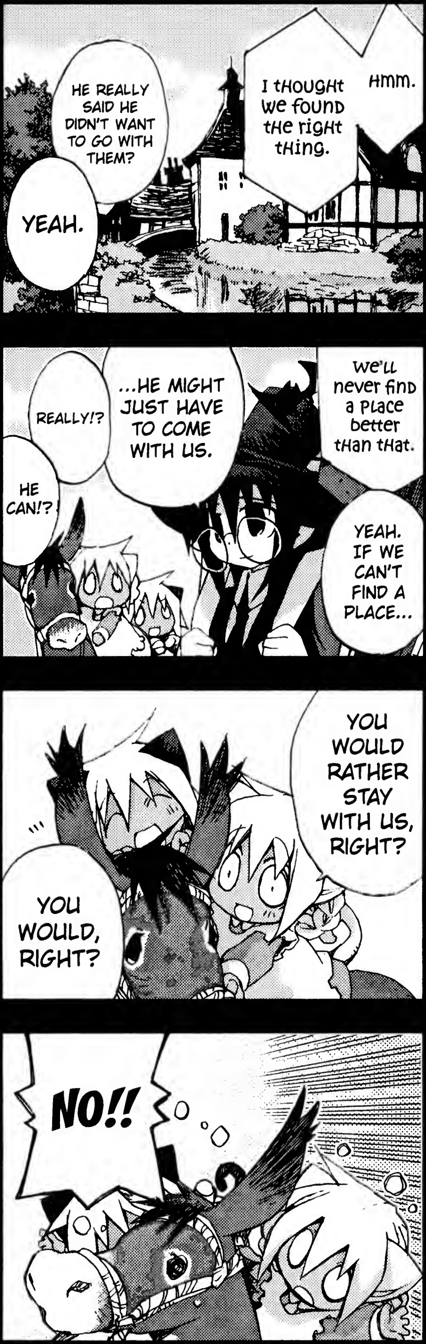

HE IS NOT GOOD AT WORKING AND IS ALWAYS GETTING IN TROUBLE.
THAT'S WHY HE WAS TAKEN HERE AND THERE, ALL OVER THE PLACE.
"I'LL PROBABLY GET IN TROUBLE AT MY NEW PLACE AND WILL BE SOLD AGAIN."
THIS IS WHAT HE SAID. "SO CAN YOU LET ME GO?"
KURO-CHAN, PLEASE.
CAN WE TAKE HIM WITH US?
UMM ...
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE ANIMALS.
PAT
ぽん
OH YEAH.
THIS is where I get mad, right?
I'm allowed to get mad, right?

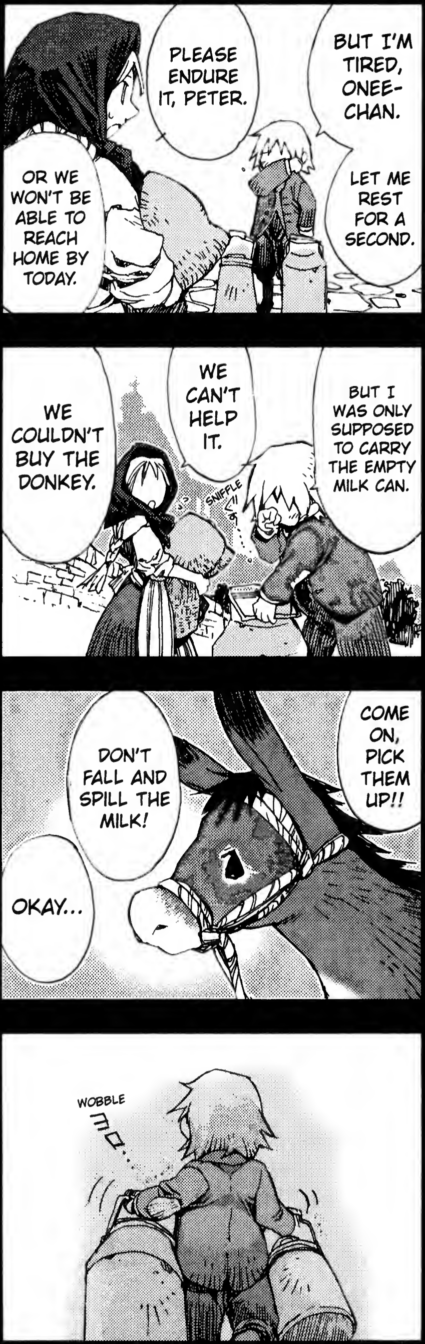

WE CAN'T TAKE HIM WITH US...
...BUT IF WE FIND "THE BEST PLACE" FOR THIS DONKEY...
...ALL THREE OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE SATISFIED, RIGHT?
YEAH!!
OH GEEZ
And what kind of place are you looking for?
HE REALLY WANTS TO GO BACK TO HIS MOM.
BUT SINCE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
...HE WOULD SETTLE FOR A PLACE...
...WHERE HE CAN EAT A LOT AND WORK A LITTLE.
AND A PLACE WHERE HE WOULD BE PETTED ON THE NOSE.
It doesn't seem like he's compromising at all.
WELL, WE'LL DO OUR BEST.
There's someone in that barley field.
YEAH, HOW ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE?
PERK
HUH? YOU LIKE BARLEY?
That's great.
If you work hard, they might give you barley every day.
I'LL GO ASK.
CAN YOU BRING THE DONKEY OVER HERE?
IF YOU CAN CARRY THIS, I'LL GIVE YOU A STACK OF BARLEY.
GOOD LUCK!!

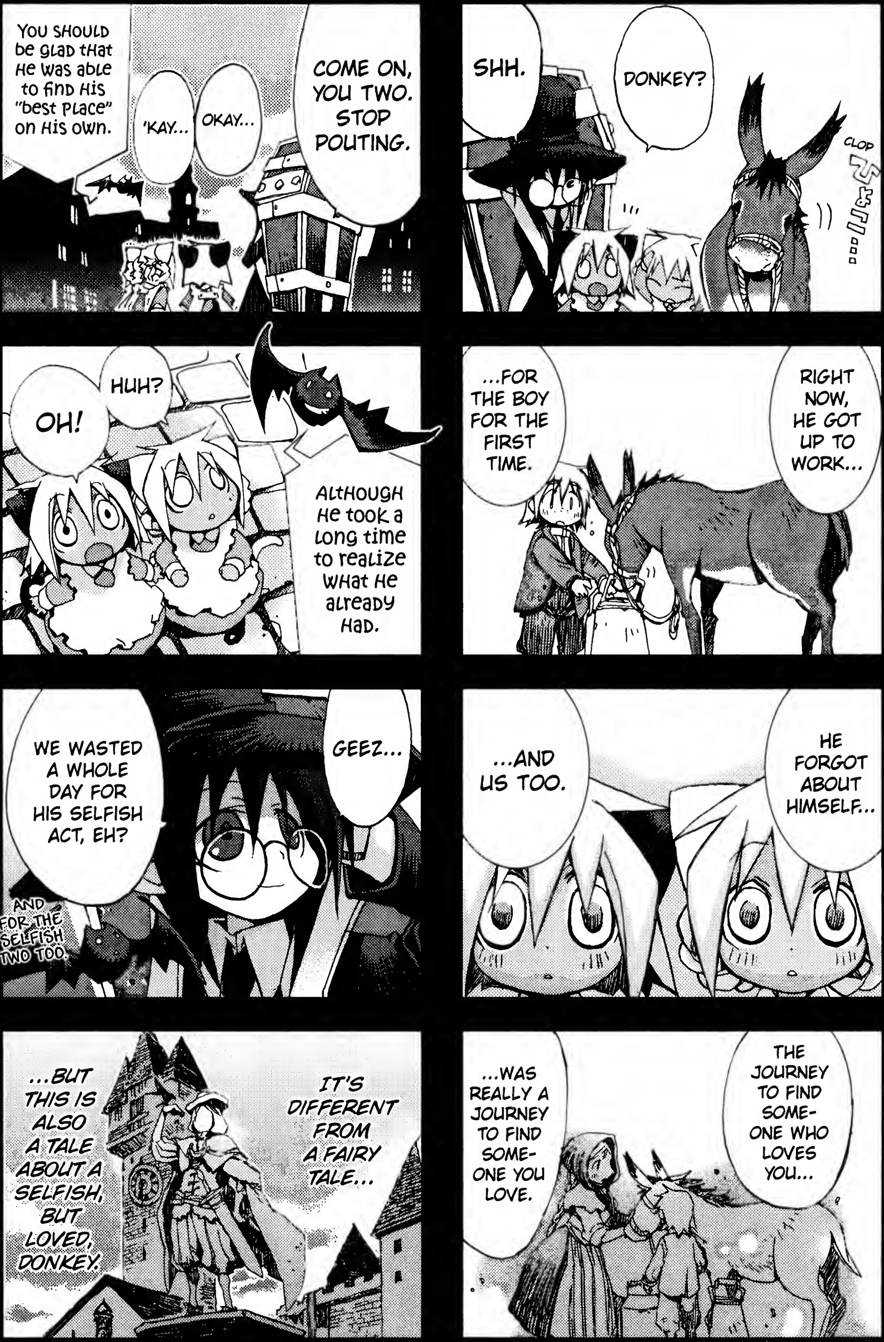

HEY, YOU TRAVELERS OVER THERE.
IF YOU HAVE A DONKEY, CAN YOU HELP ME OUT?
TROD とぼ
TROD とぼ
CHEER UP.
MY DONKEY JUST SLIPPED AND DROWNED WHILE CROSSING THE RIVER.
I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT.
YOU WANT IT TO CARRY THE DRENCHED LUGGAGE?
THAT ONE HAS SALT.
WHEN IT FELL INTO THE WATER, MOST OF IT WAS WASHED AWAY.
IT'S LIGHT.
OH, THEN THIS DONKEY COULD EASILY CARRY IT.
BUT THIS ONE HAS COTTON IN IT.
HEY!! WAIT!!
MOISTURE 水分
HEAVY ずしっ
DASH!! だっ!!
WELL...
I DON'T MIND YOU RUNNING AWAY...
BUT PLEASE.
Next time you do, leave the girls behind.
HE'S SAYING HE'S SORRY.
HE SAID HE'LL CARRY YOUR LUGGAGE TO MAKE UP FOR IT.
CAN I HAVE SOME ROPE?
MY LUGGAGE?
IT'S PRETTY HEAVY. ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH, I THINK HE WOULD BE OKAY.
SEE?
WOW, YOU'RE AMAZING.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH.
Maybe he just thinks he's weak...
...or he's just really lazy.
THOSE TWO PERSUADED HIM.

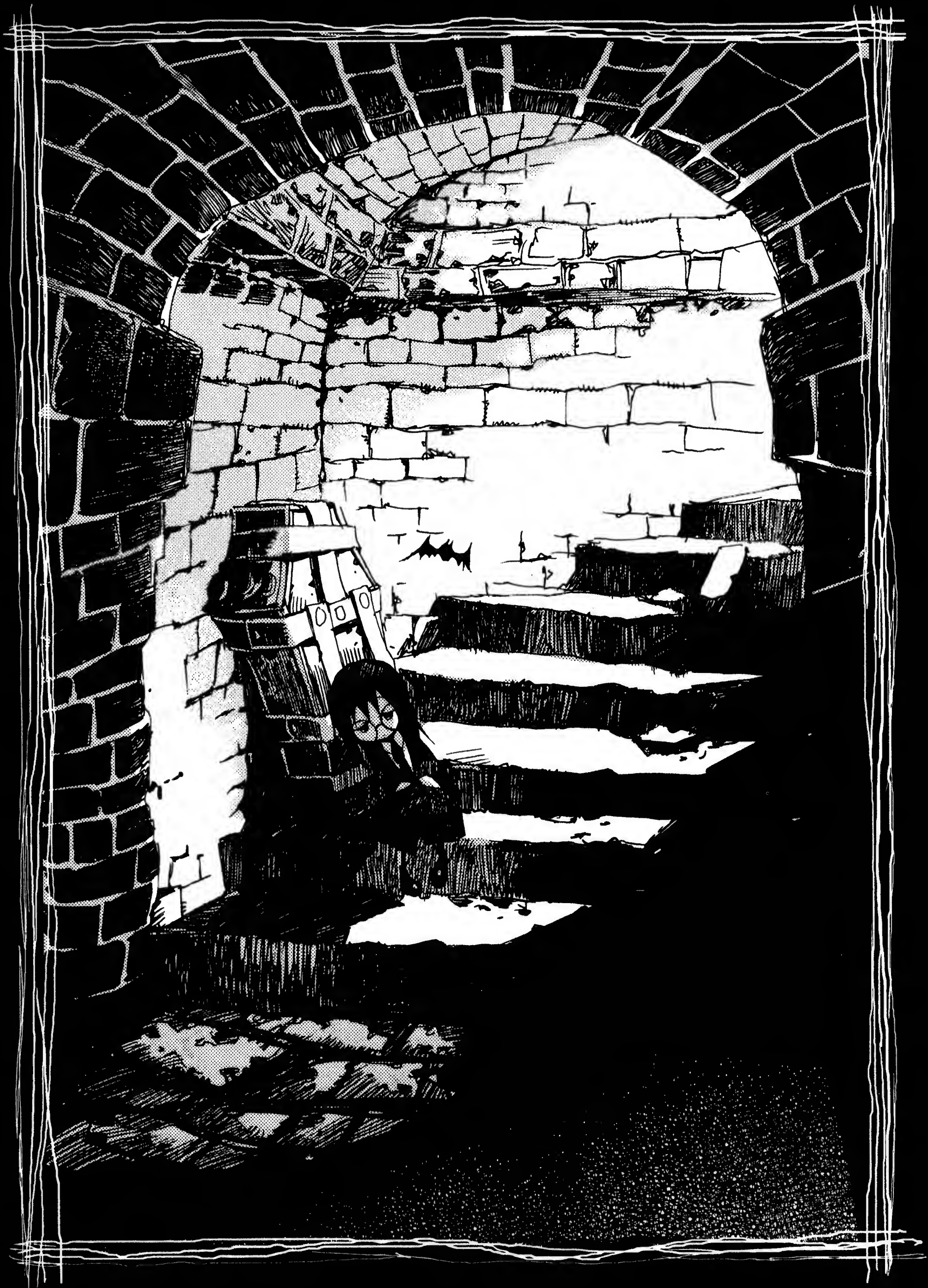

IT'S A FAIRY TALE FROM SOME-WHERE!
A WITCH PUTS A CURSE ON A PRINCE AND HE TURNS INTO A DONKEY.
AND HE TRAVELS TO SEEK THE PERSON WHO WOULD TRULY LOVE HIM.
IF YOU WERE A PRINCE WHO WAS TURNED INTO A DONKEY BY A CURSE...
...A HAPPY ENDING WITH A PRINCESS WOULD BE WAITING FOR YOU.
HUH?
What do you mean?
I'M SURE THIS DON-KEY FEELS LIKE THAT PRINCE.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A PROMISED ENDING.
That's true.
A fairy tale is so un-realistic.
There's someone who'd give you uncondi-tional love from the beginning.
KURO-CHAN! SEN!!
I WANT TO BE PART OF THAT FAIRY TALE WORLD TOO.
HOW ABOUT THAT BIG HOUSE?
Nah, I don't think so.
They won't care for a donkey.
If they're rich, they would get a cow or a horse.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WE'LL GO ASK.
THAT HOUSE LIKES ANIMALS!!
THEY WOULD KEEP THE DONKEY INSIDE THE HOUSE!
!! Are you serious!?
YEAH! WHEN WE LOOKED INSIDE THE HOUSE...
...THERE WERE MANY ANIMALS LIV-ING THERE!
GO BACK THERE AND TELL THEM THE DEAL'S OFF!!


WHAT'S THAT HOUSE?
IT'S A TENT.
LOTS OF ANIMALS.
ARE YOU A TRAVELING CIRCUS?
WE'RE A MUSIC GROUP.
Music group? Not a circus?
YES. THEY'RE THE PERFORMERS.
TA-DAA
...Let's give up.
NO!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WON'T FIT HIM AT ALL.
I SEE, THIS DONKEY NEEDS A HOME.
WE'D LOVE TO TAKE HIM.
HE COULD HELP US WITH OUR TRAVELS.
SO THEY SAY.
HOW ABOUT IT?
YOU WON'T PICK ON HIM?
YOU'LL FEED HIM WELL?
OF COURSE.
I'LL SWEAR TO YOUR CUTENESS.
HE CAN'T DO "MUSIC."
I'M SO GLAD!!
AREN'T YOU HAPPY TOO?
....

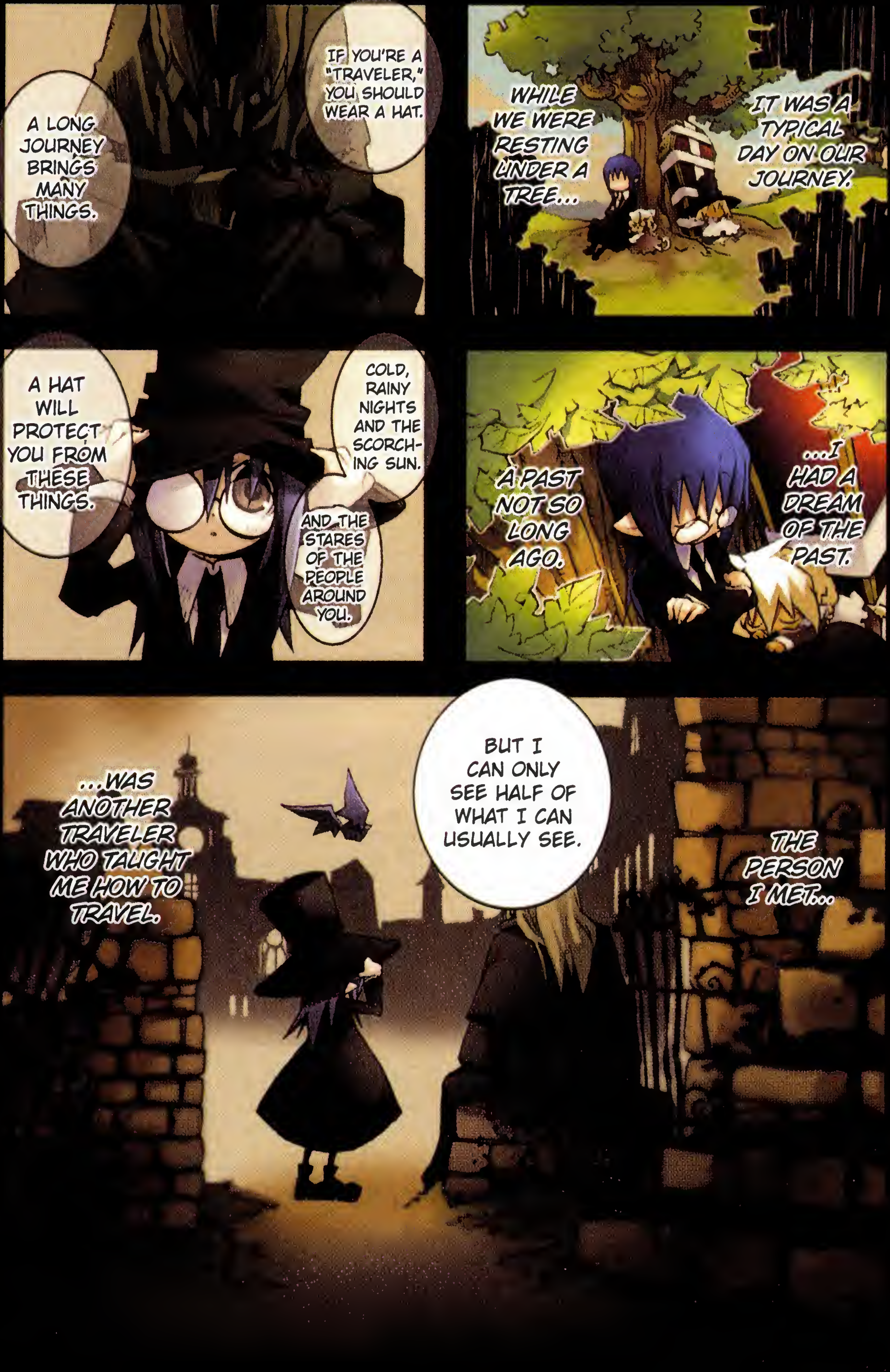

Hmm.
I thought we found the right thing.
He really said he didn't want to go with them?
YEAH.
We'll never find a place better than that.
YEAH. IF WE CAN'T FIND A PLACE...
...HE MIGHT JUST HAVE TO COME WITH US.
REALLY!?
HE CAN!?
YOU WOULD RATHER STAY WITH US, RIGHT?
YOU WOULD, RIGHT?
NO!!

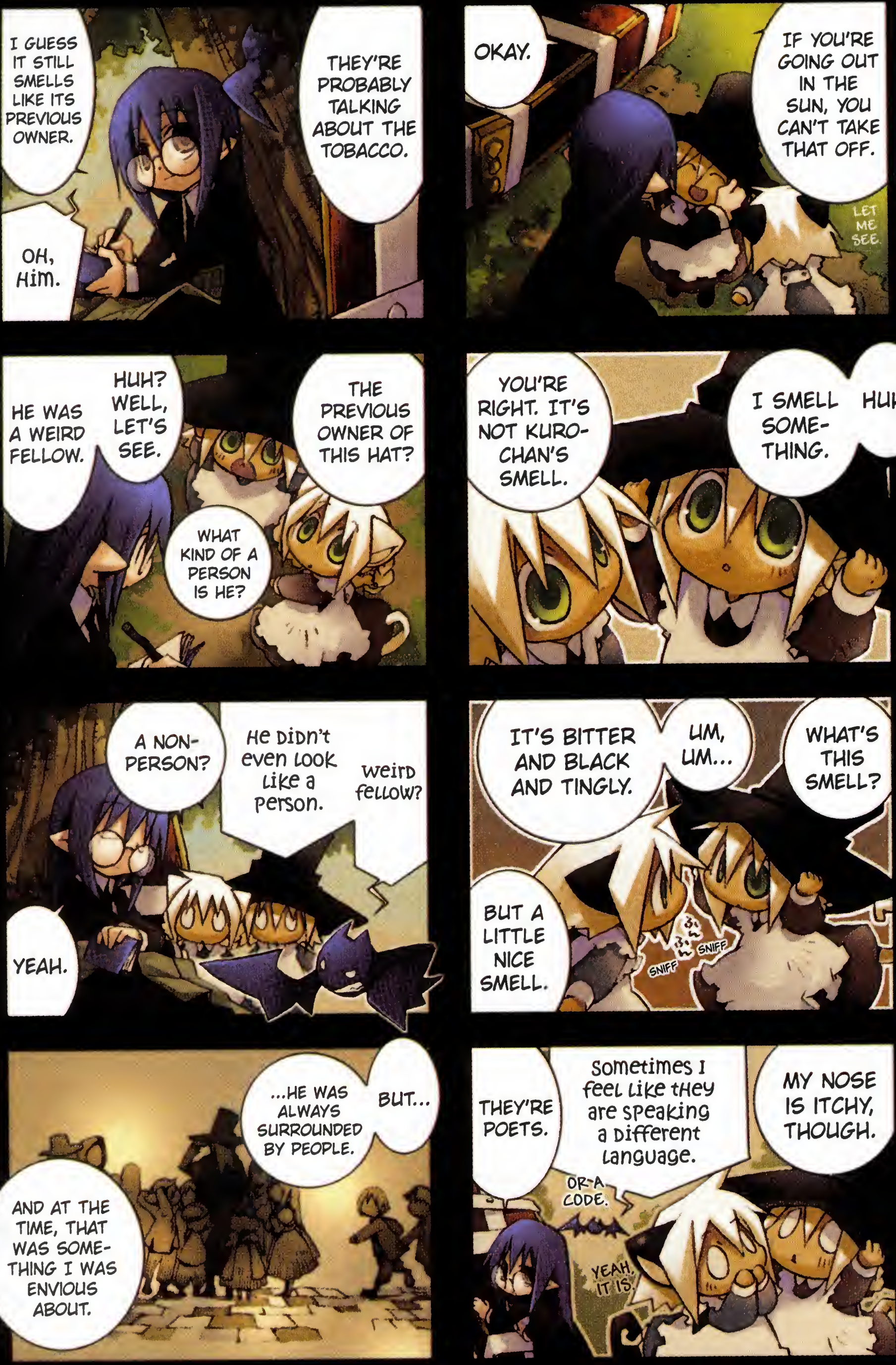

BUT I'M TIRED, ONEE-CHAN.
LET ME REST FOR A SECOND.
PLEASE ENDURE IT, PETER.
OR WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH HOME BY TODAY.
BUT I WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO CARRY THE EMPTY MILK CAN.
WE CAN'T HELP IT.
WE COULDN'T BUY THE DONKEY.
SNIFFLE
COME ON, PICK THEM UP!!
DON'T FALL AND SPILL THE MILK!
OKAY...
WOBBLE
ヨロ...

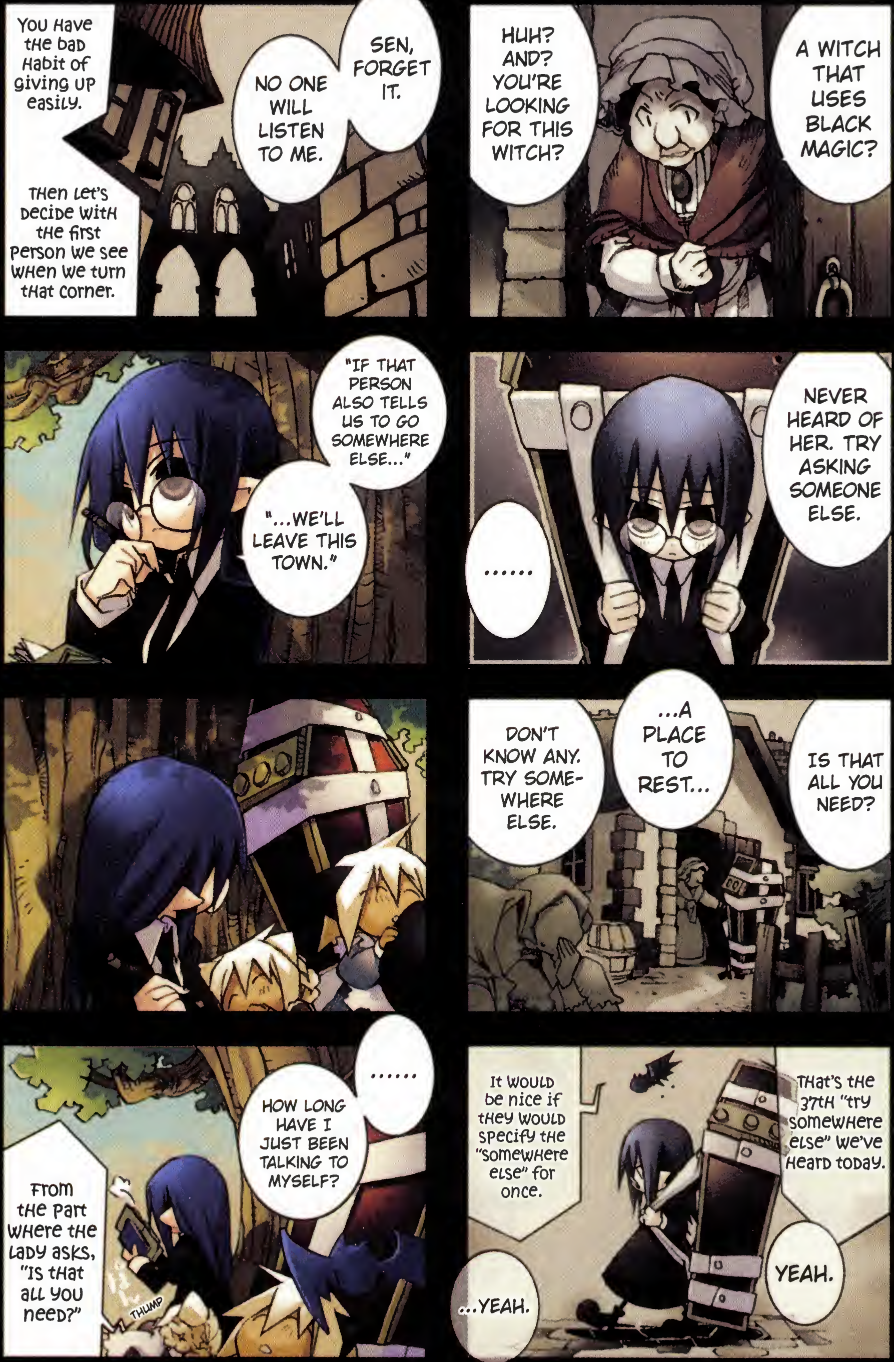

DONKEY?
SHH.
CLOP
ぴょこ!...
RIGHT NOW, HE GOT UP TO WORK...
...FOR THE BOY FOR THE FIRST TIME.
HE FORGOT ABOUT HIMSELF...
...AND US TOO.
THE JOURNEY TO FIND SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU...
...WAS REALLY A JOURNEY TO FIND SOMEONE YOU LOVE.
COME ON, YOU TWO. STOP POUTING.
OKAY...
'KAY...
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD THAT HE WAS ABLE TO FIND HIS "BEST PLACE" ON HIS OWN.
HUH?
OH!
ALTHOUGH HE TOOK A LONG TIME TO REALIZE WHAT HE ALREADY HAD.
GEEZ...
WE WASTED A WHOLE DAY FOR HIS SELFISH ACT, EH?
AND FOR THE SELFISH TWO TOO.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM A FAIRY TALE...
...BUT THIS IS ALSO A TALE ABOUT A SELFISH, BUT LOVED, DONKEY.

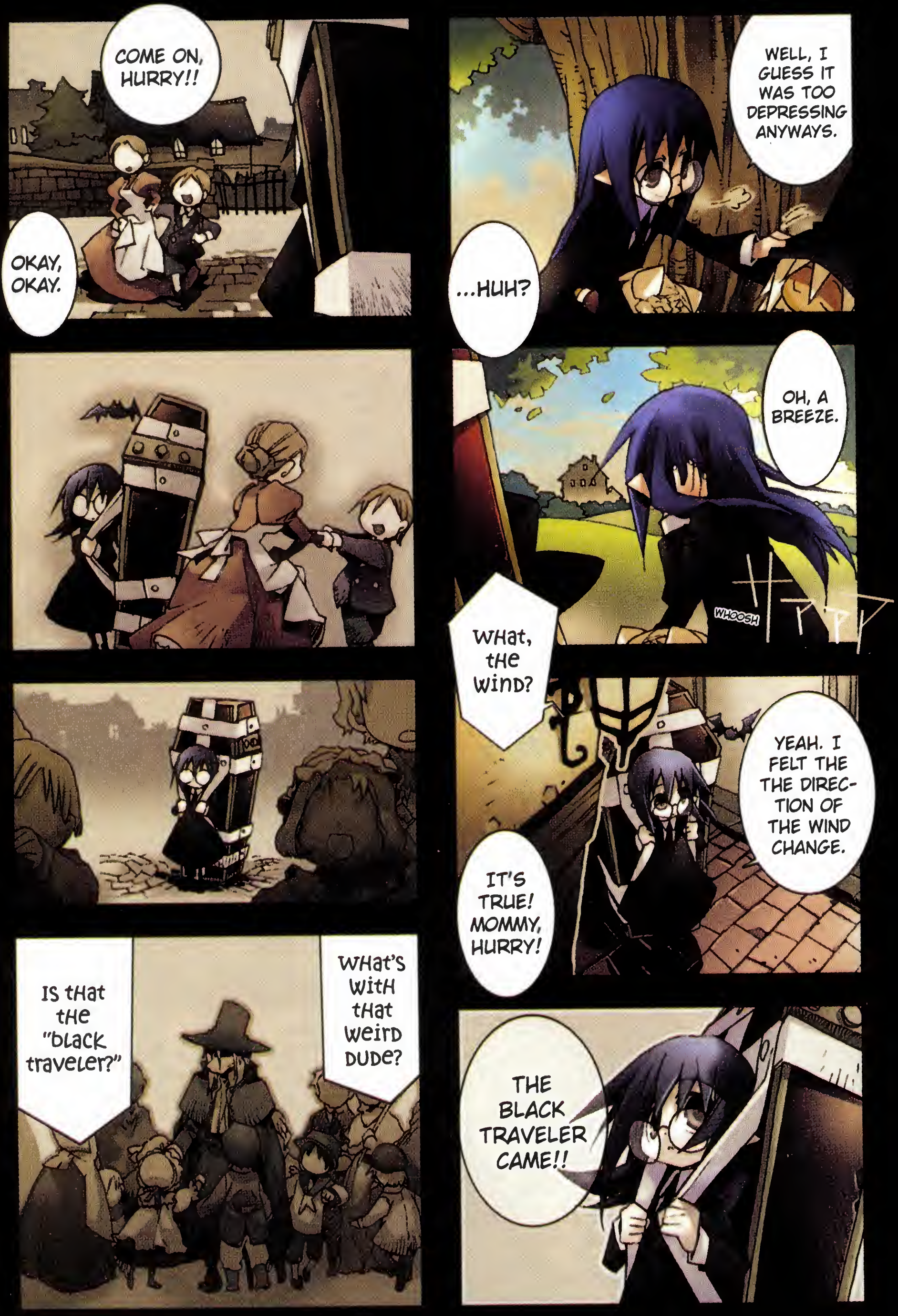


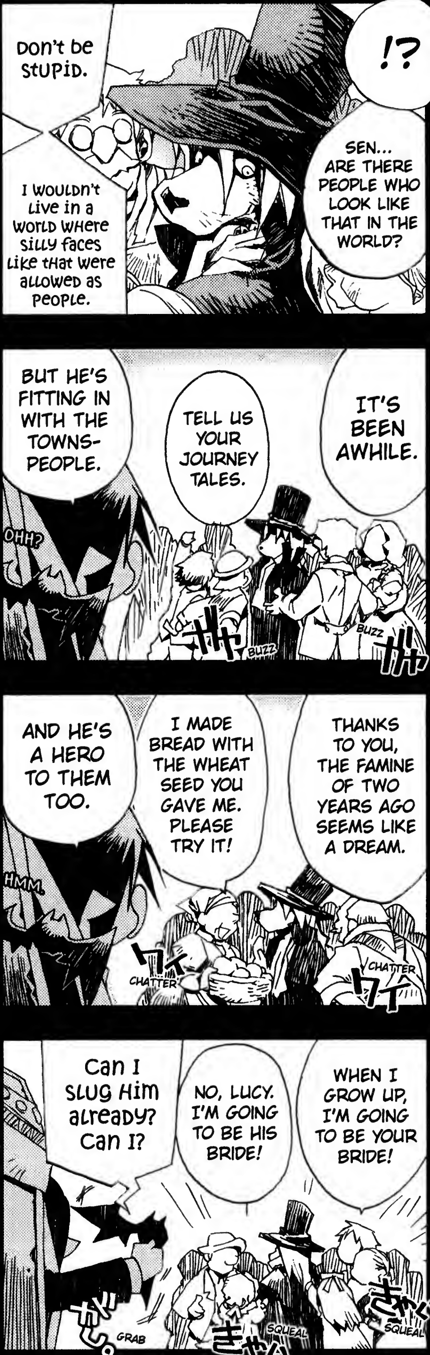
To walk into an unknown town and to meet unknown people—
it's what happens when you travel.
But it was not that easy for the young traveler to accept this.

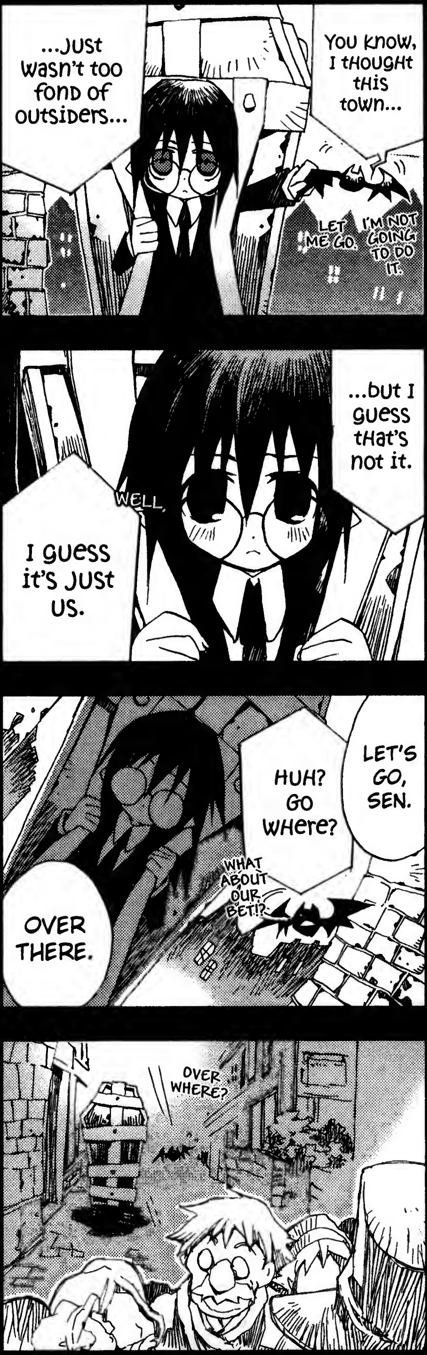

IT WAS A TYPICAL DAY ON OUR JOURNEY.
WHILE WE WERE RESTING UNDER A TREE...
IF YOU'RE A "TRAVELER," YOU SHOULD WEAR A HAT.
A LONG JOURNEY BRINGS MANY THINGS.
...I HAD A DREAM OF THE PAST.
A PAST NOT SO LONG AGO.
COLD, RAINY NIGHTS AND THE SCORCHING SUN.
AND THE STARES OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
A HAT WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THESE THINGS.
THE PERSON I MET...
BUT I CAN ONLY SEE HALF OF WHAT I CAN USUALLY SEE.
...WAS ANOTHER TRAVELER WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO TRAVEL.

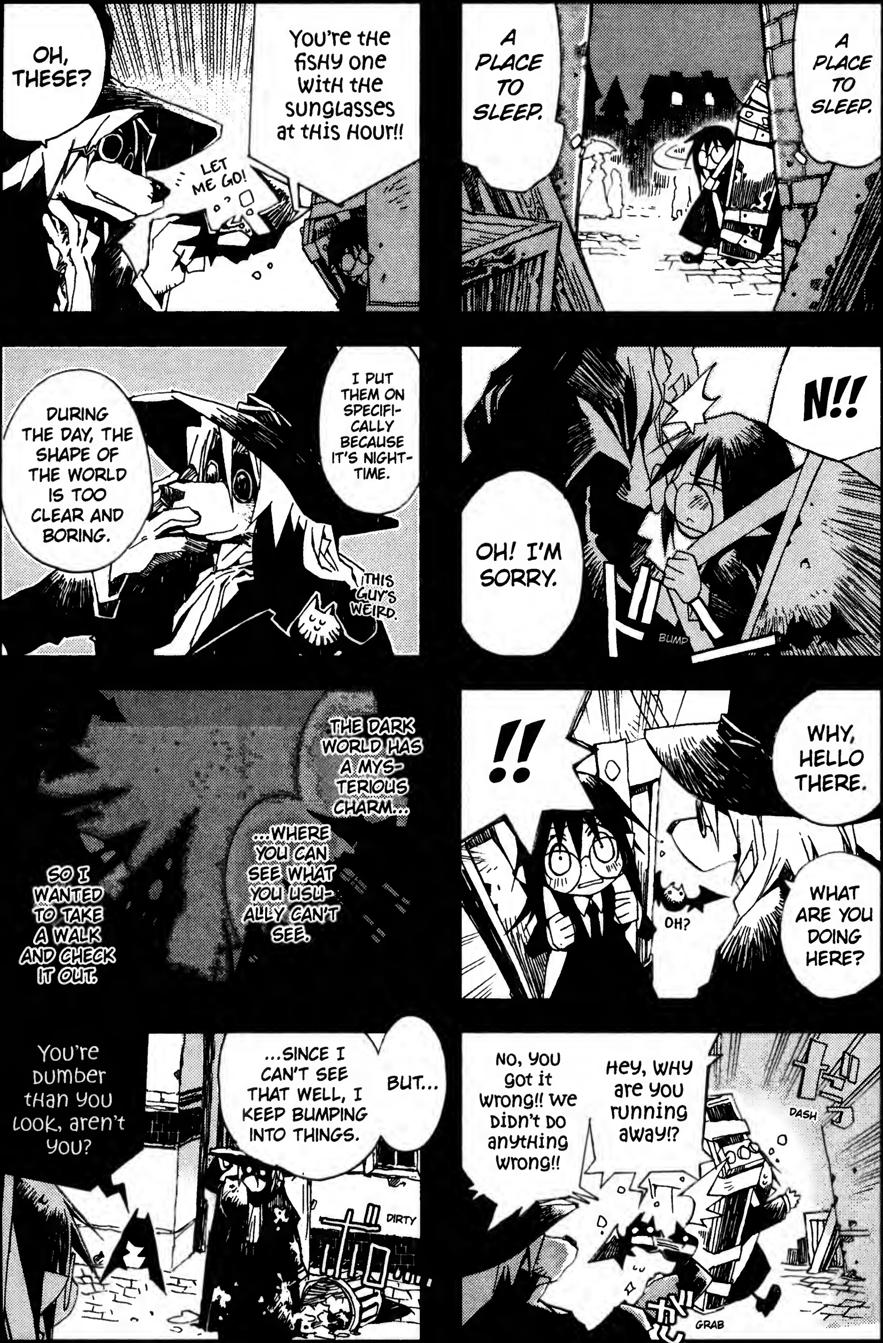

IF YOU'RE GOING OUT IN THE SUN, YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT OFF.
LET ME SEE.
OKAY.
I SMELL SOME-THING.
HUH?
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S NOT KURO-CHAN'S SMELL.
WHAT'S THIS SMELL?
UM, UM...
IT'S BITTER AND BLACK AND TINGLY.
BUT A LITTLE NICE SMELL.
SNIFF
SNIFF
MY NOSE IS ITCHY, THOUGH.
Sometimes I feel like they are speaking a different language.
THEY'RE POETS.
OR A CODE.
YEAH, IT IS.
THEY'RE PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT THE TOBACCO.
I GUESS IT STILL SMELLS LIKE ITS PREVIOUS OWNER.
OH, Him.
THE PREVIOUS OWNER OF THIS HAT?
WHAT KIND OF A PERSON IS HE?
HUH? WELL, LET'S SEE.
HE WAS A WEIRD FELLOW.
weird fellow?
He Didn't even Look Like a person.
A NON-PERSON?
YEAH.
BUT...
...HE WAS ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE.
AND AT THE TIME, THAT WAS SOME-THING I WAS ENVIOUS ABOUT.

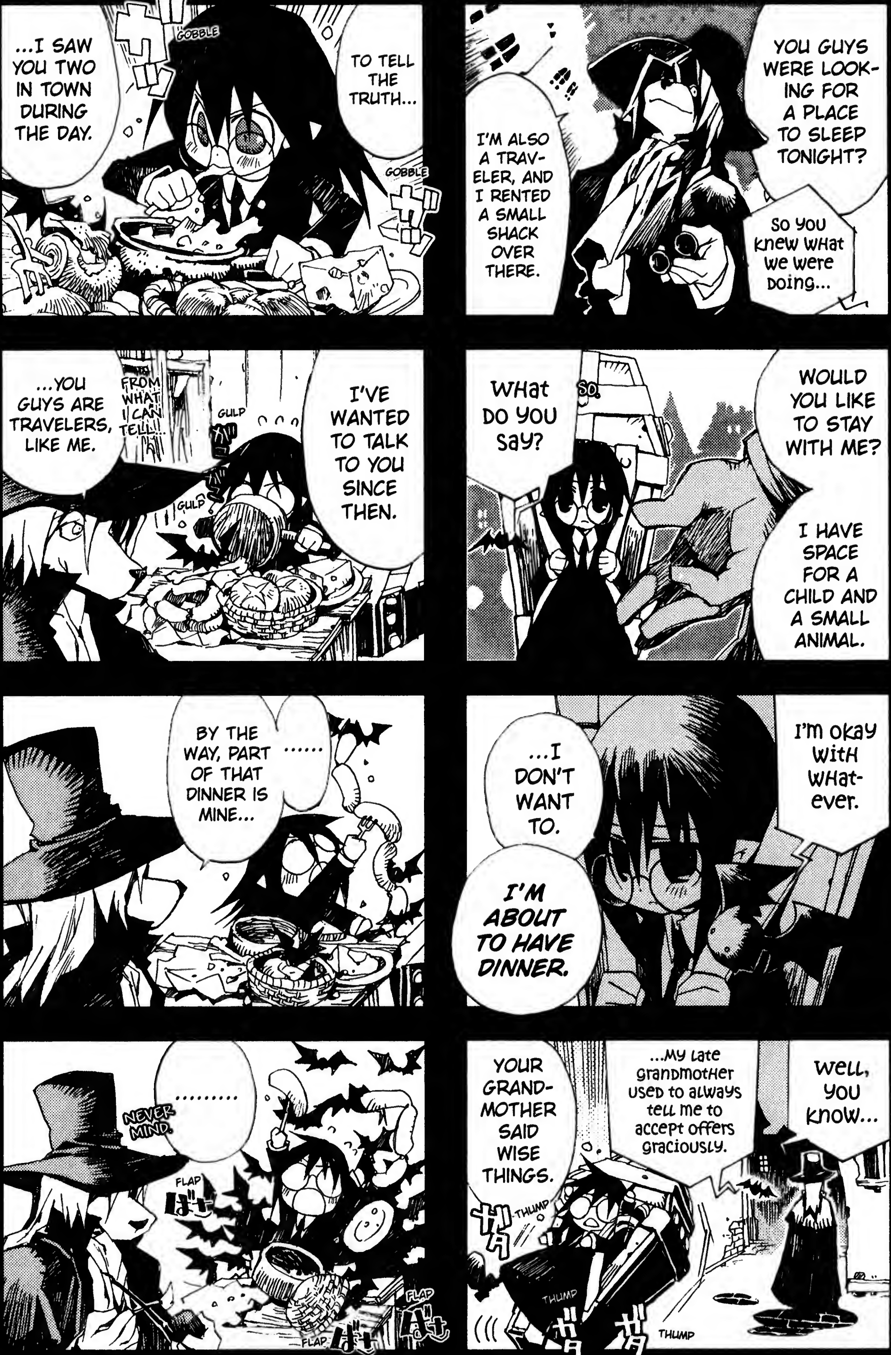

A WITCH THAT USES BLACK MAGIC?
HUH? AND? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THIS WITCH?
SEN, FORGET IT.
NO ONE WILL LISTEN TO ME.
You have the bad habit of giving up easily.
Then let's decide with the first person we see when we turn that corner.
NEVER HEARD OF HER. TRY ASKING SOMEONE ELSE.
......
"IF THAT PERSON ALSO TELLS US TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE..."
"...WE'LL LEAVE THIS TOWN."
IS THAT ALL YOU NEED?
...A PLACE TO REST...
DON'T KNOW ANY. TRY SOME-WHERE ELSE.
That's the 37th "try somewhere else" we've heard today.
It would be nice if they would specify the "somewhere else" for once.
YEAH.
...YEAH.
......
HOW LONG HAVE I JUST BEEN TALKING TO MYSELF?
From the part where the lady asks, "Is that all you need?"
THUMP

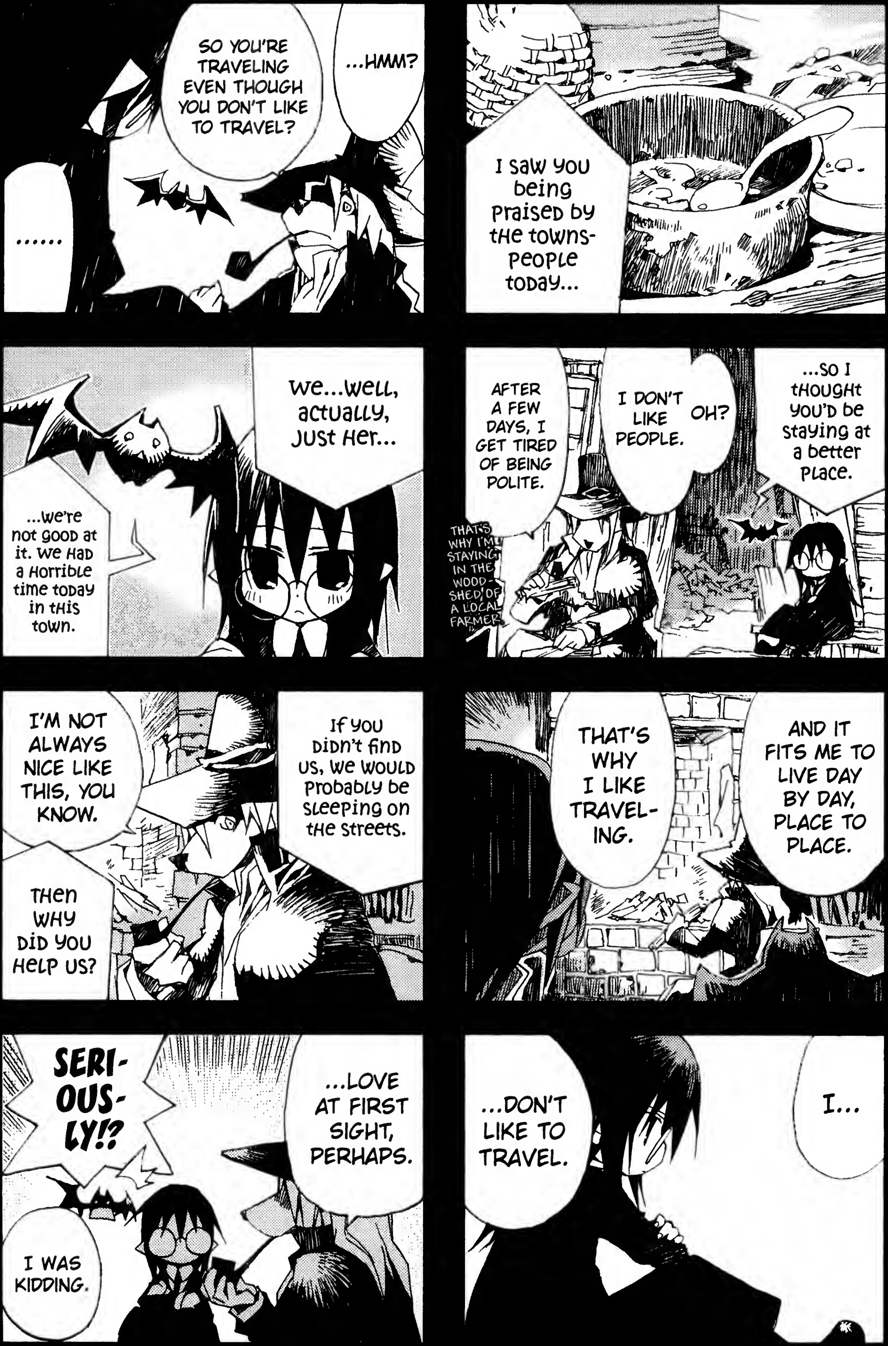

WELL, I GUESS IT WAS TOO DEPRESSING ANYWAYS.
...HUH?
OH, A BREEZE.
WHOOSH
WHAT, THE WIND?
YEAH. I FELT THE THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND CHANGE.
IT'S TRUE! MOMMY, HURRY!
THE BLACK TRAVELER CAME!!
COME ON, HURRY!!
OKAY, OKAY.
WHAT'S WITH THAT WEIRD DUDE?
IS THAT THE "BLACK TRAVELER?"

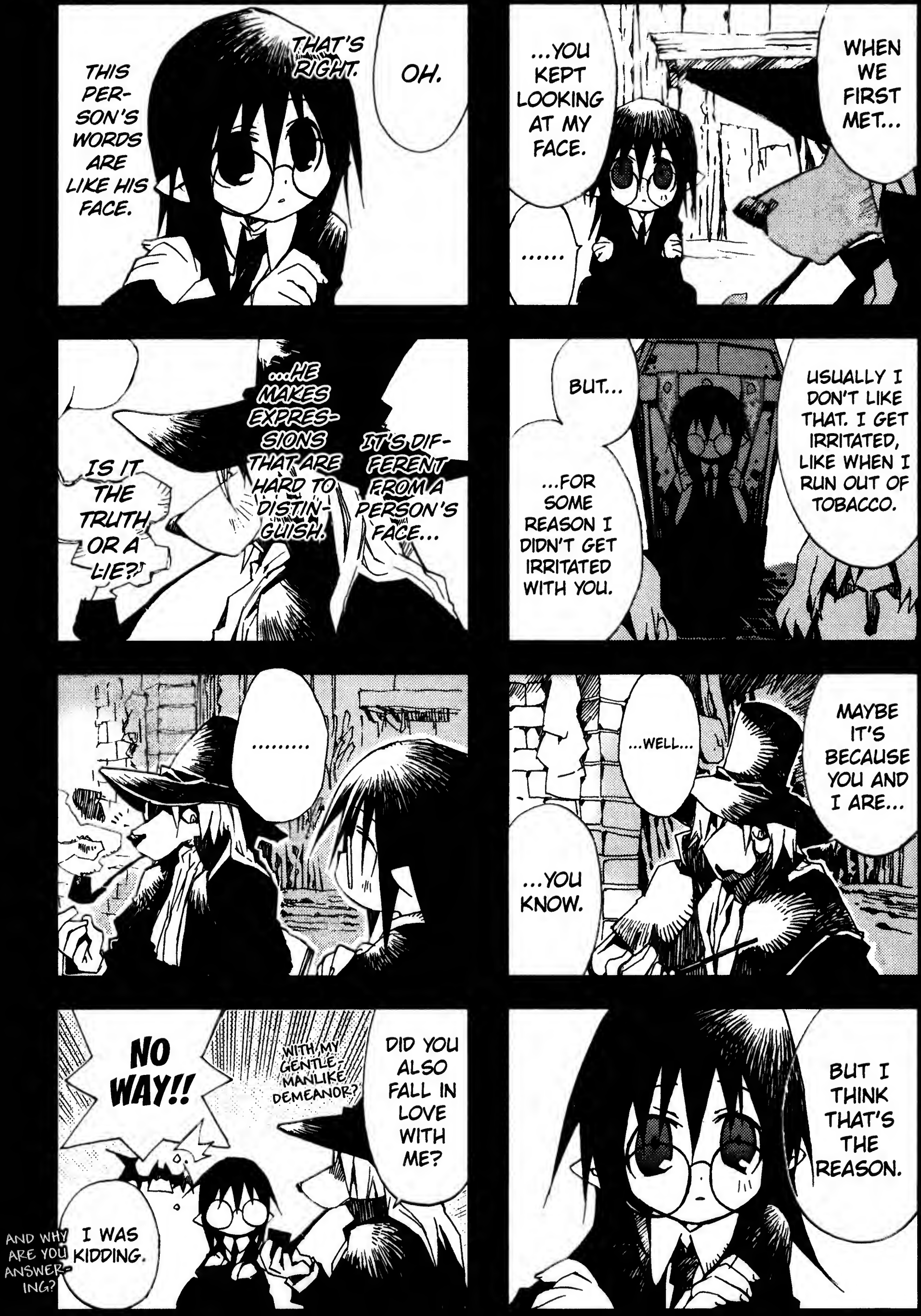

!?
SEN... ARE THERE PEOPLE WHO LOOK LIKE THAT IN THE WORLD?
Don't be stupid.
I wouldn't live in a world where silly faces like that were allowed as people.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
TELL US YOUR JOURNEY TALES.
BUT HE'S FITTING IN WITH THE TOWNS-PEOPLE.
OHH?
ガヤ
BUZZ
ガヤ
BUZZ
THANKS TO YOU, THE FAMINE OF TWO YEARS AGO SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.
I MADE BREAD WITH THE WHEAT SEED YOU GAVE ME. PLEASE TRY IT!
AND HE'S A HERO TO THEM TOO.
HMM.
ワイ
CHATTER
ワイ
CHATTER
WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GOING TO BE YOUR BRIDE!
NO, LUCY. I'M GOING TO BE HIS BRIDE!
Can I slug him already? Can I?
きゃい
SQUEAL
きゃい
SQUEAL
がし。
GRAB

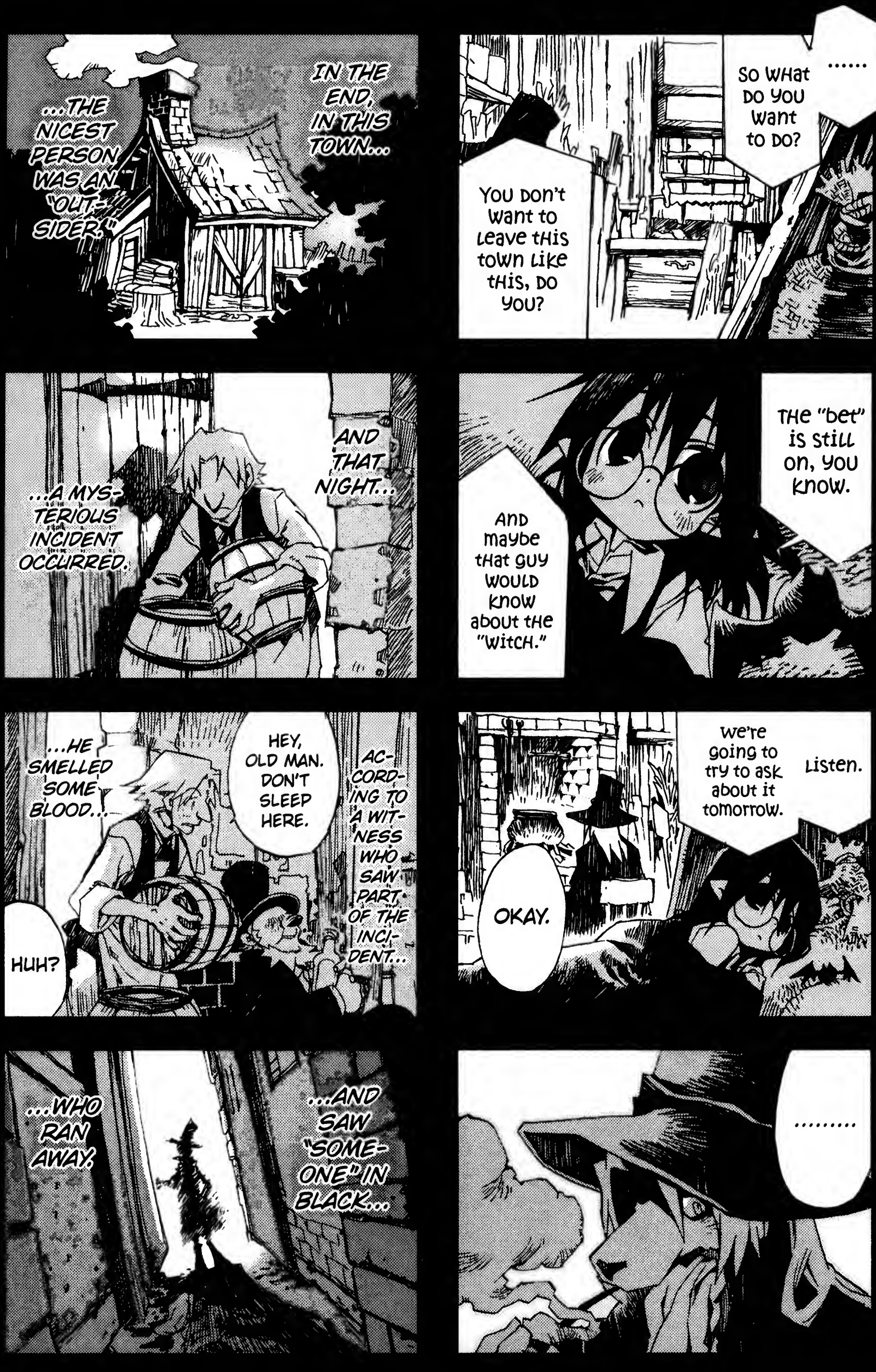

You know, I thought this town...
...Just wasn't too fond of outsiders...
I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT.
LET ME GO.
...but I guess that's not it.
WELL,
I guess it's Just us.
LET'S GO, SEN.
HUH? GO WHERE?
WHAT ABOUT OUR BET!?
OVER THERE.
OVER WHERE?

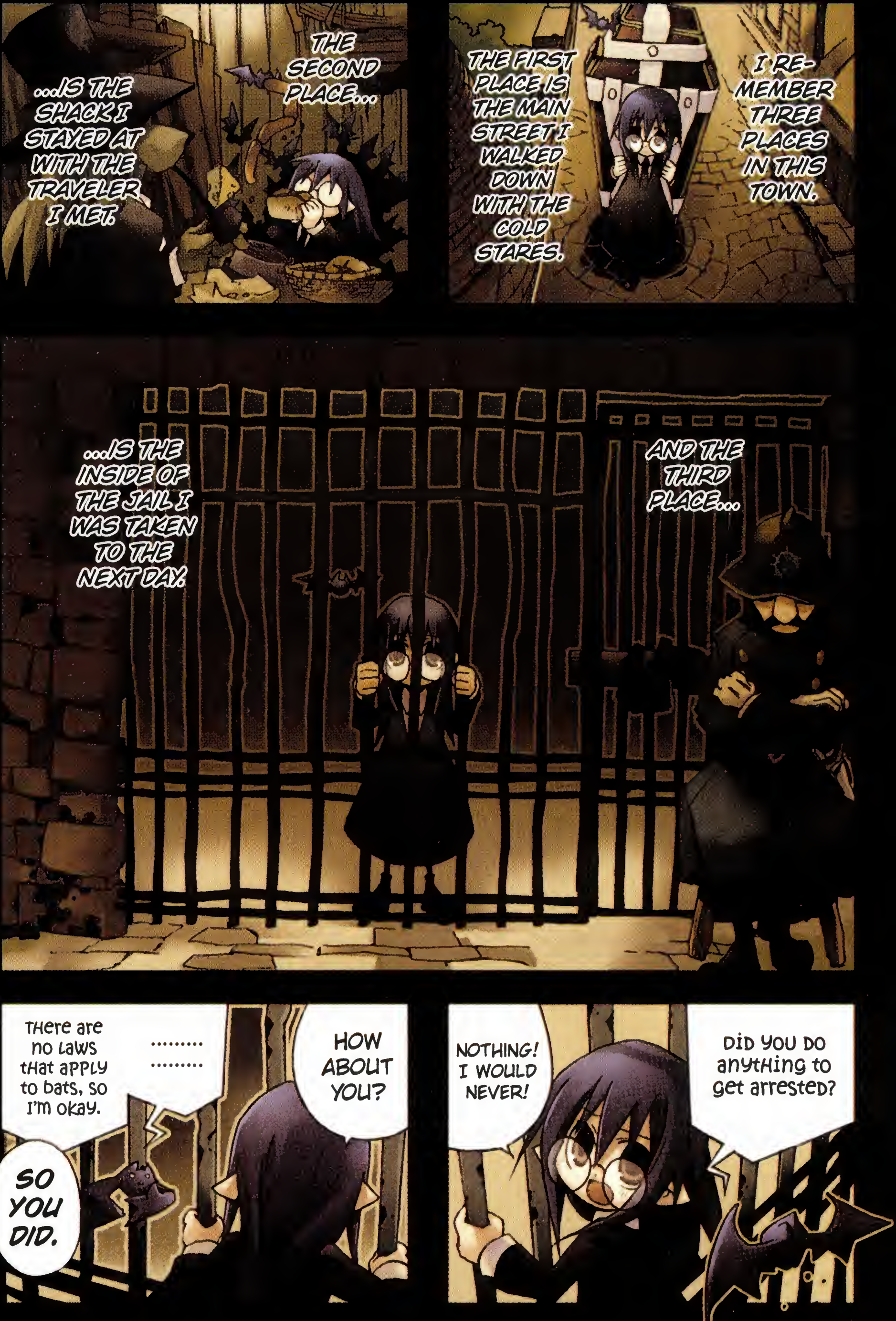

A PLACE TO SLEEP.
A PLACE TO SLEEP.
N!!
OH! I'M SORRY.
BUMP
!!
WHY, HELLO THERE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OH?
DASH
Hey, WHY are you running away!?
No, you got it wrong!! we didn't do anything wrong!!
GRAB
You're the fishy one with the sunglasses at this Hour!!
LET ME GO!
OH, THESE?
I PUT THEM ON SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE IT'S NIGHT-TIME.
DURING THE DAY, THE SHAPE OF THE WORLD IS TOO CLEAR AND BORING.
THIS GUY'S WEIRD.
THE DARK WORLD HAS A MYSTERIOUS CHARM...
...WHERE YOU CAN SEE WHAT YOU USUALLY CAN'T SEE.
SO I WANTED TO TAKE A WALK AND CHECK IT OUT.
BUT...
...SINCE I CAN'T SEE THAT WELL, I KEEP BUMPING INTO THINGS.
DIRTY
You're dumber than you look, aren't you?

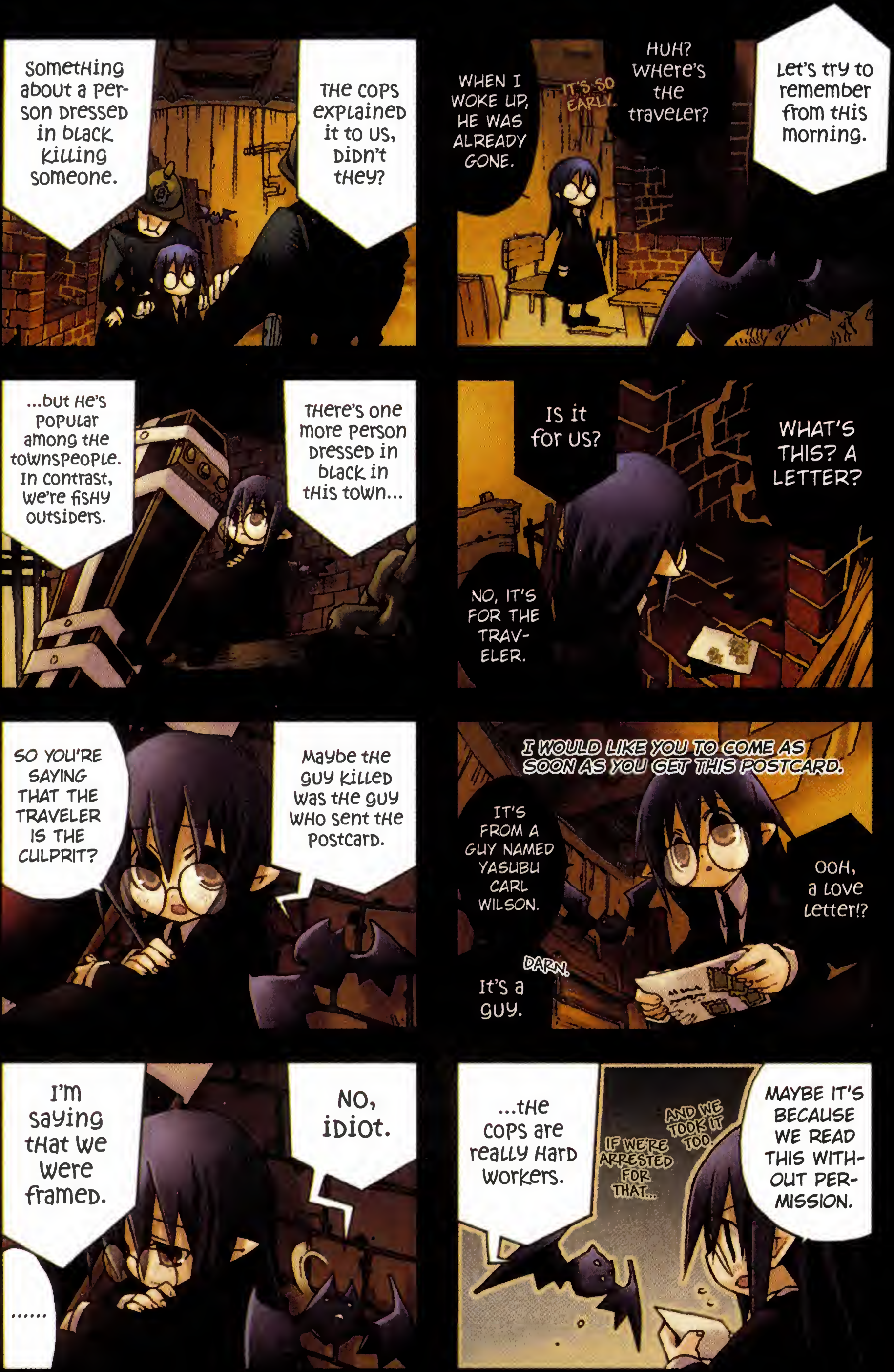

YOU GUYS WERE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP TONIGHT?
So you knew what we were doing...
I'M ALSO A TRAVELER, AND I RENTED A SMALL SHACK OVER THERE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY WITH ME?
I HAVE SPACE FOR A CHILD AND A SMALL ANIMAL.
SO.
What do you say?
I'm okay with whatever.
...I DON'T WANT TO.
I'M ABOUT TO HAVE DINNER.
Well, you know...
...My late grandmother used to always tell me to accept offers graciously.
YOUR GRANDMOTHER SAID WISE THINGS.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
TO TELL THE TRUTH...
GOBBLE
...I SAW YOU TWO IN TOWN DURING THE DAY.
GOBBLE
I'VE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU SINCE THEN.
GULP
GULP
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL...
...YOU GUYS ARE TRAVELERS, LIKE ME.
......
BY THE WAY, PART OF THAT DINNER IS MINE...
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
....
NEVER MIND.

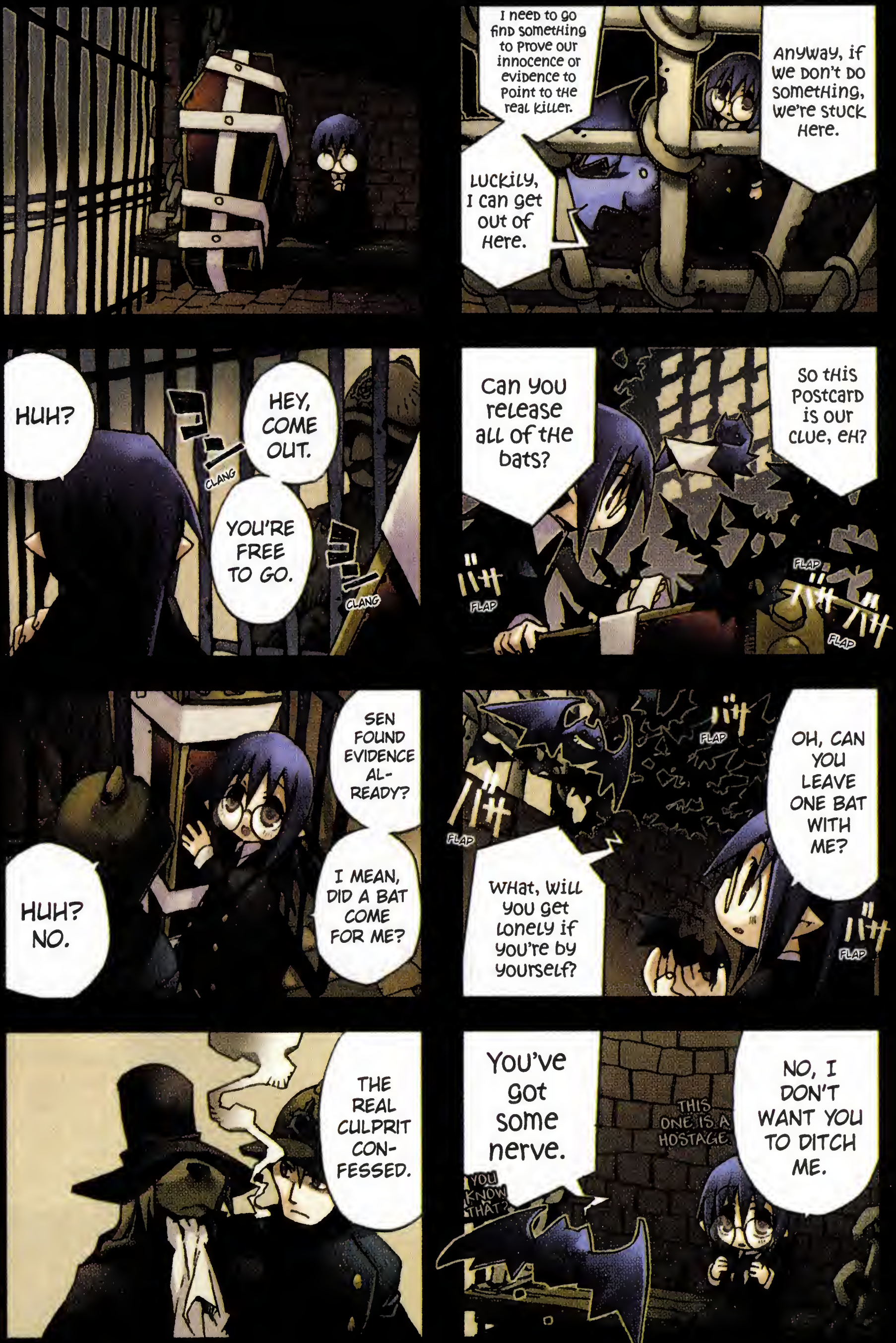

I saw you being praised by the townspeople today...
...So I thought you'd be staying at a better place.
OH?
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE.
AFTER A FEW DAYS, I GET TIRED OF BEING POLITE.
THAT'S WHY I'M STAYING IN THE WOODSHED OF A LOCAL FARMER.
AND IT FITS ME TO LIVE DAY BY DAY, PLACE TO PLACE.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE TRAVELING.
I...
...DON'T LIKE TO TRAVEL.
SO YOU'RE TRAVELING EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T LIKE TO TRAVEL?
...HMM?
......
we...well, actually, just her...
...we're not good at it. we had a horrible time today in this town.
If you didn't find us, we would probably be sleeping on the streets.
I'M NOT ALWAYS NICE LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW.
Then why did you help us?
...LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, PERHAPS.
SERIOUSLY!?
I WAS KIDDING.

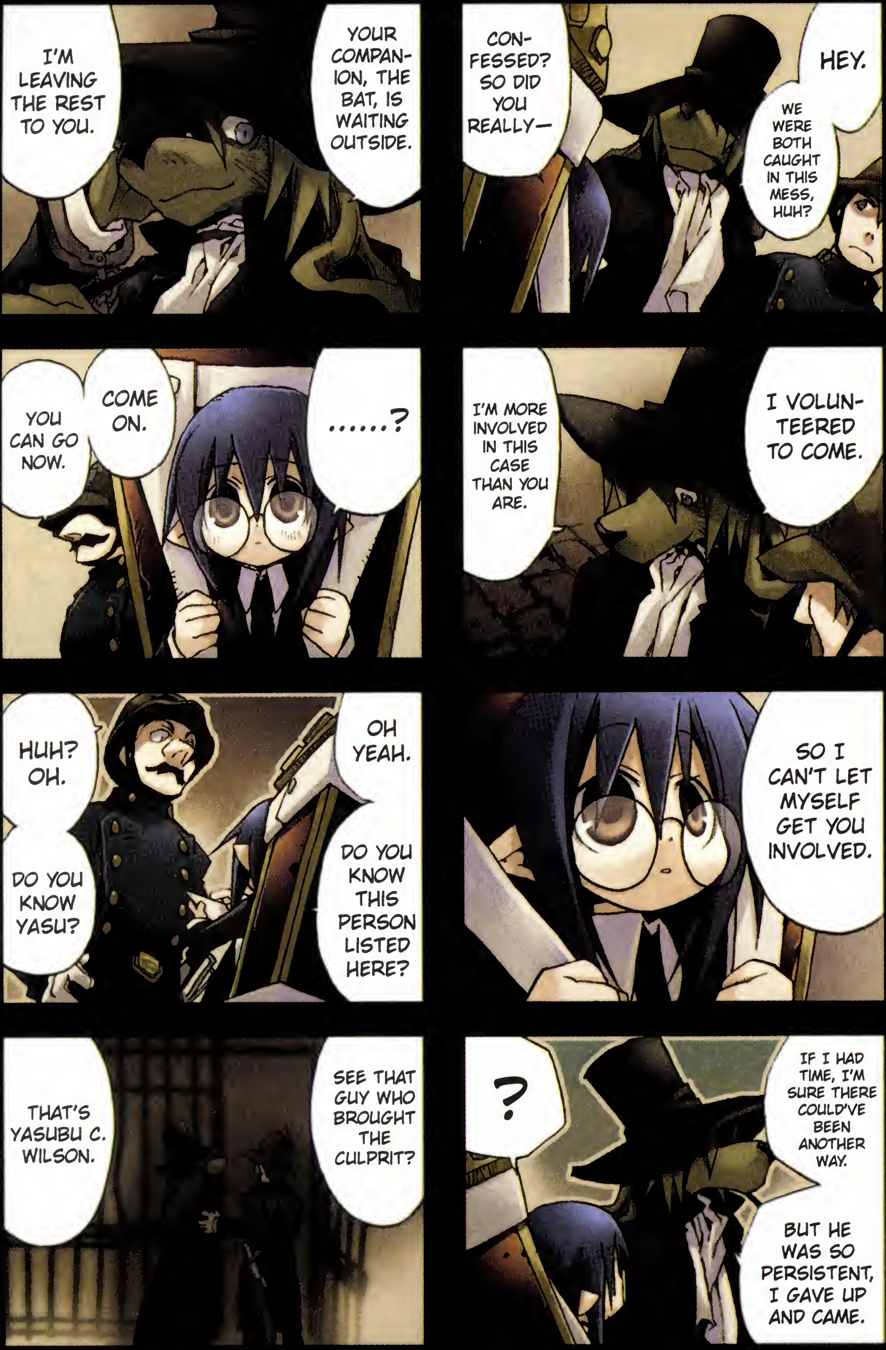

WHEN WE FIRST MET...
...YOU KEPT LOOKING AT MY FACE.
......
USUALLY I DON'T LIKE THAT. I GET IRRITATED, LIKE WHEN I RUN OUT OF TOBACCO.
BUT...
...FOR SOME REASON I DIDN'T GET IRRITATED WITH YOU.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU AND I ARE...
...WELL...
...YOU KNOW.
BUT I THINK THAT'S THE REASON.
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS PERSON'S WORDS ARE LIKE HIS FACE.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM A PERSON'S FACE...
...HE MAKES EXPRESSIONS THAT ARE HARD TO DISTINGUISH.
IS IT THE TRUTH OR A LIE?
....
DID YOU ALSO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME?
WITH MY GENTLEMANLIKE DEMEANOR?
NO WAY!!
I WAS KIDDING.
AND WHY ARE YOU ANSWERING?

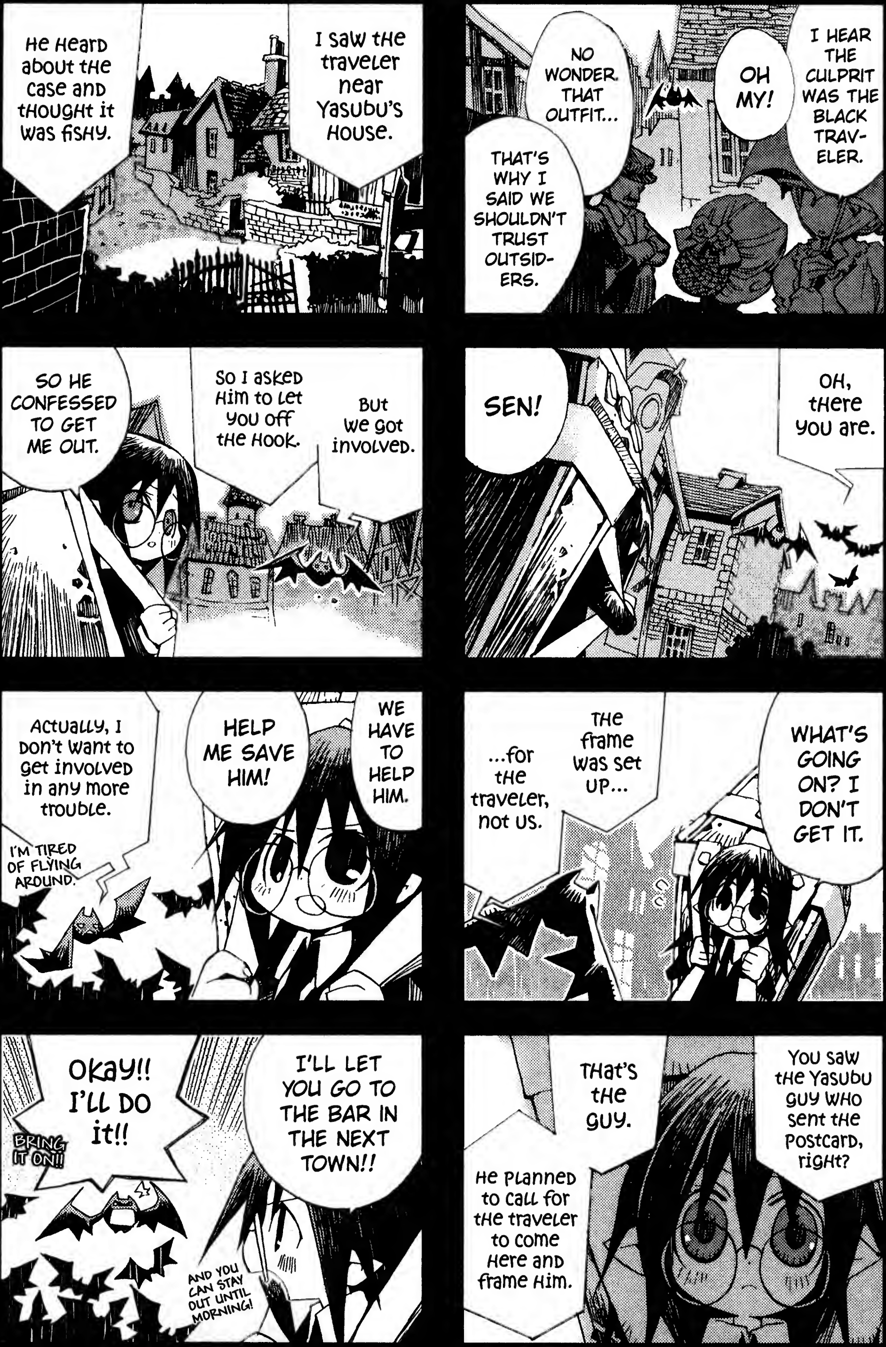

......
So what do you want to do?
You don't want to leave this town like this, do you?
The "bet" is still on, you know.
And maybe that guy would know about the "witch."
Listen.
We're going to try to ask about it tomorrow.
OKAY.
....
IN THE END, IN THIS TOWN...
...THE NICEST PERSON WAS AN "OUTSIDER."
AND THAT NIGHT...
...A MYSTERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED.
ACCORDING TO A WITNESS WHO SAW PART OF THE INCIDENT...
HEY, OLD MAN. DON'T SLEEP HERE.
...HE SMELLED SOME BLOOD...
HUH?
...AND SAW "SOMEONE" IN BLACK...
...WHO RAN AWAY.

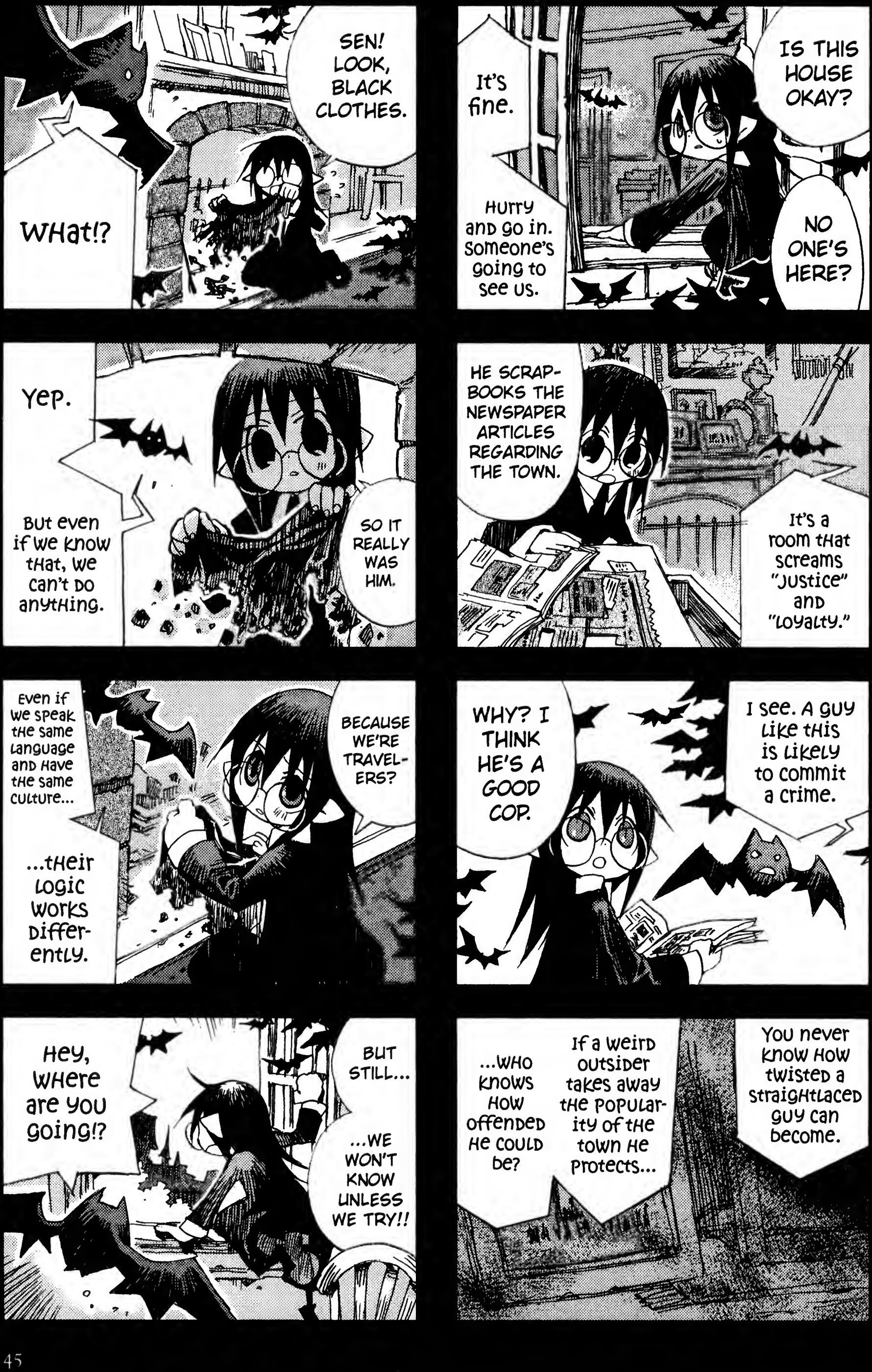

I REMEMBER THREE PLACES IN THIS TOWN.
THE FIRST PLACE IS THE MAIN STREET I WALKED DOWN WITH THE COLD STARES.
THE SECOND PLACE...
...IS THE SHACK I STAYED AT WITH THE TRAVELER I MET.
AND THE THIRD PLACE...
...IS THE INSIDE OF THE JAIL I WAS TAKEN TO THE NEXT DAY.
Did you do anything to get arrested?
NOTHING! I WOULD NEVER!
HOW ABOUT YOU?
....
....
There are no laws that apply to bats, so I'm okay.
SO YOU DID.

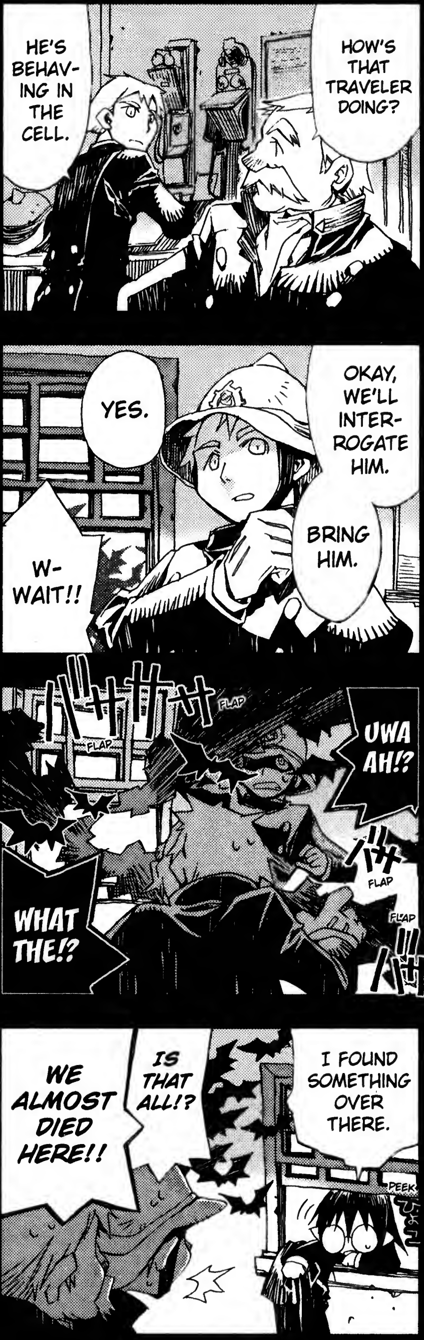

Let's try to remember from this morning.
HUH? WHERE'S THE TRAVELER?
IT'S SO EARLY.
WHEN I WOKE UP, HE WAS ALREADY GONE.
WHAT'S THIS? A LETTER?
IS IT FOR US?
NO, IT'S FOR THE TRAVELER.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS POSTCARD.
OOH, A LOVE LETTER!?
IT'S FROM A GUY NAMED YASUBU CARL WILSON.
DARN.
IT'S A GUY.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE READ THIS WITHOUT PERMISSION.
AND WE TOOK IT TOO.
IF WE'RE ARRESTED FOR THAT...
...THE COPS ARE REALLY HARD WORKERS.
THE COPS EXPLAINED IT TO US, DIDN'T THEY?
SOMETHING ABOUT A PERSON DRESSED IN BLACK KILLING SOMEONE.
THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON DRESSED IN BLACK IN THIS TOWN...
...BUT HE'S POPULAR AMONG THE TOWNSPEOPLE. IN CONTRAST, WE'RE FISHY OUTSIDERS.
MAYBE THE GUY KILLED WAS THE GUY WHO SENT THE POSTCARD.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE TRAVELER IS THE CULPRIT?
NO, IDIOT.
I'M SAYING THAT WE WERE FRAMED.
......

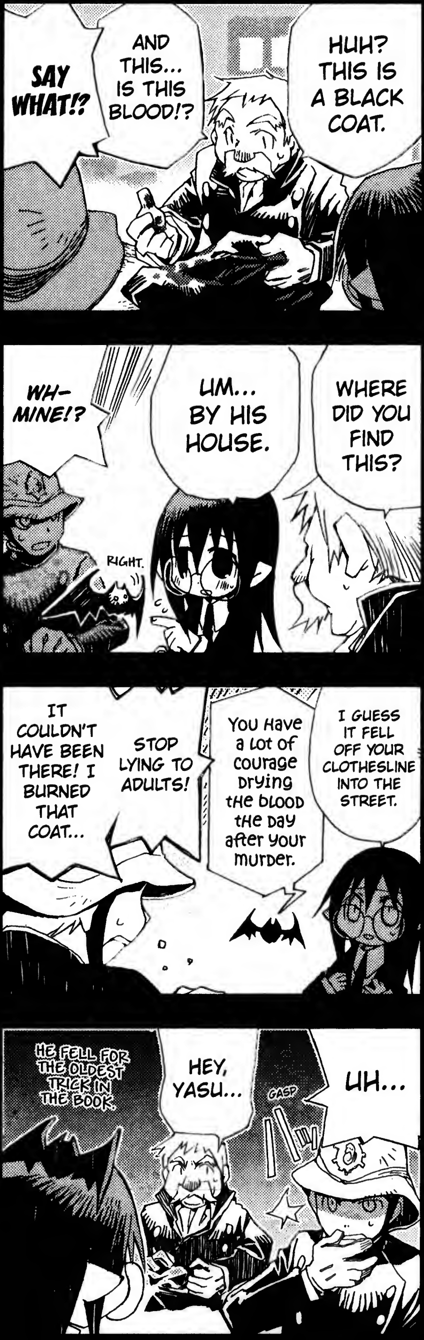

Anyway, if we don't do something, we're stuck here.
I need to go find something to prove our innocence or evidence to point to the real killer.
Luckily, I can get out of here.
So this postcard is our clue, eh?
Can you release all of the bats?
バサ
FLAP
バサ
FLAP
バサ
FLAP
HEY, COME OUT.
CLANG
YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
CLANG
HUH?
OH, CAN YOU LEAVE ONE BAT WITH ME?
バサ
FLAP
What, will you get lonely if you're by yourself?
バサ
FLAP
バサ
FLAP
SEN FOUND EVIDENCE AL-READY?
I MEAN, DID A BAT COME FOR ME?
HUH? NO.
NO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO DITCH ME.
THIS ONE IS A HOSTAGE.
You've got some nerve.
YOU KNOW THAT?
THE REAL CULPRIT CON-FESSED.

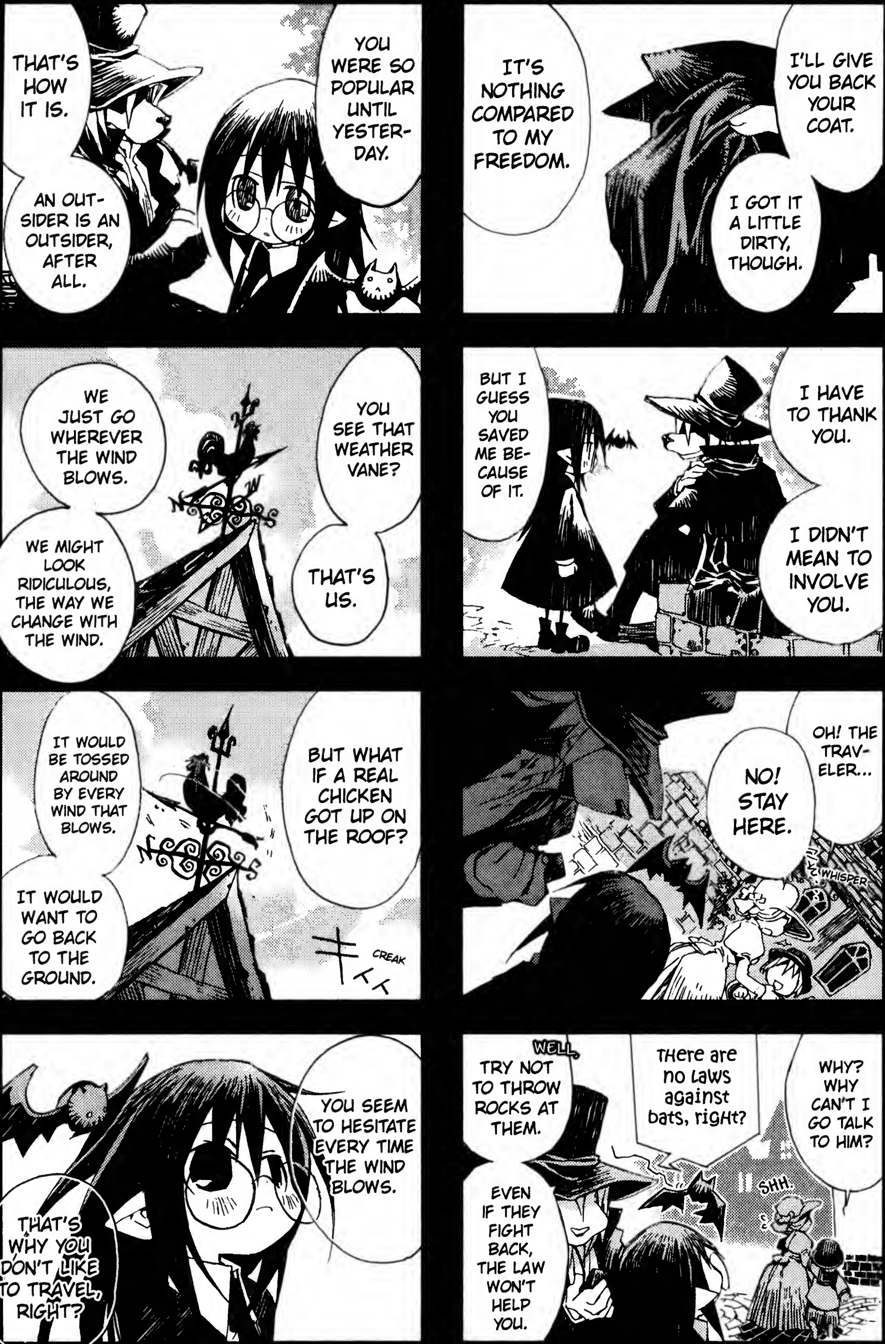

HEY.
WE WERE BOTH CAUGHT IN THIS MESS, HUH?
CONFESSED? SO DID YOU REALLY—
YOUR COMPANION, THE BAT, IS WAITING OUTSIDE.
I'M LEAVING THE REST TO YOU.
I VOLUNTEERED TO COME.
I'M MORE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE THAN YOU ARE.
......?
COME ON.
YOU CAN GO NOW.
SO I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET YOU INVOLVED.
OH YEAH.
DO YOU KNOW THIS PERSON LISTED HERE?
HUH? OH.
DO YOU KNOW YASU?
IF I HAD TIME, I'M SURE THERE COULD'VE BEEN ANOTHER WAY.
BUT HE WAS SO PERSISTENT, I GAVE UP AND CAME.
?
SEE THAT GUY WHO BROUGHT THE CULPRIT?
THAT'S YASUBU C. WILSON.

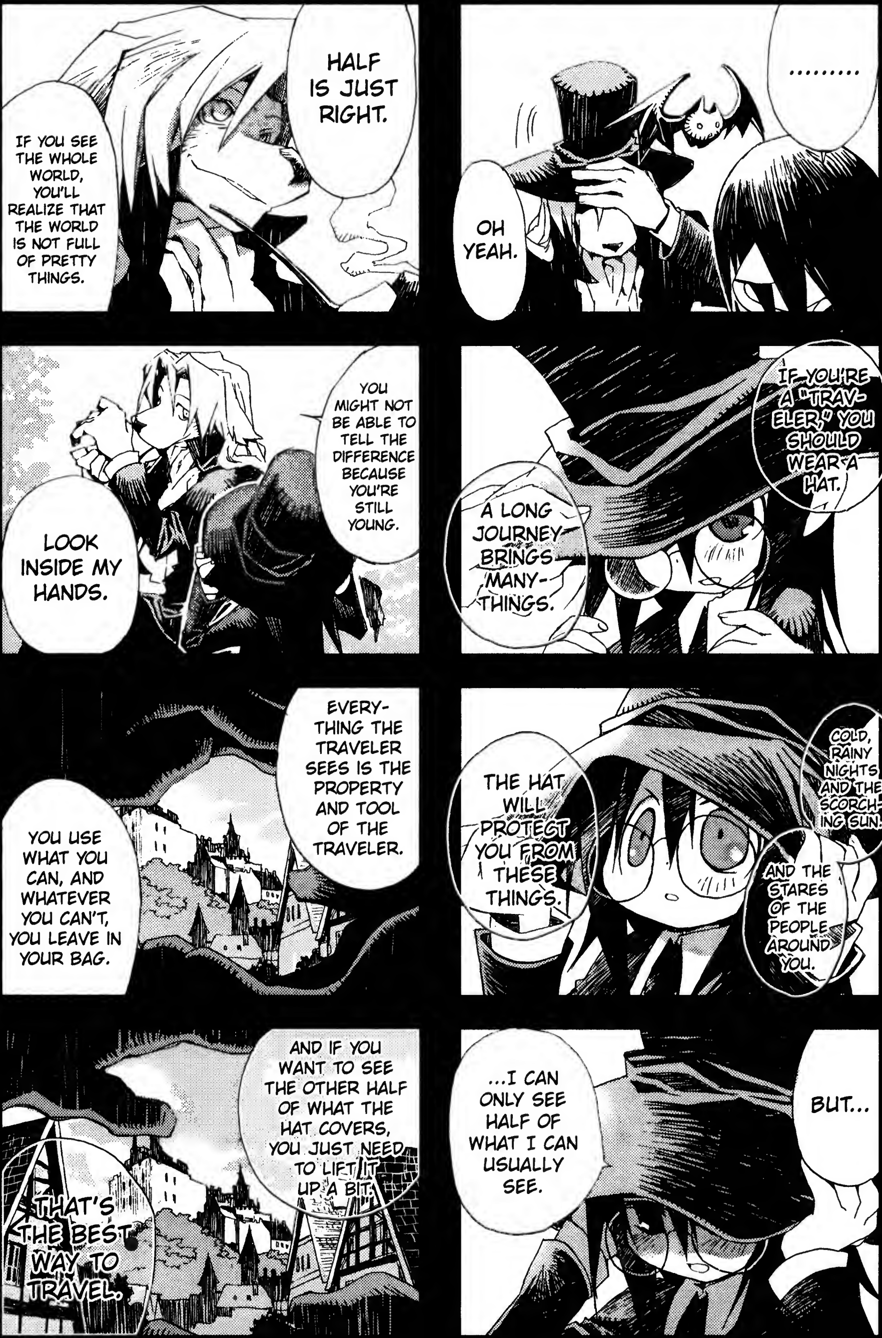

I HEAR THE CULPRIT WAS THE BLACK TRAVELER.
OH MY!
NO WONDER. THAT OUTFIT...
THAT'S WHY I SAID WE SHOULDN'T TRUST OUTSIDERS.
Oh, there you are.
SEN!
WHAT'S GOING ON? I DON'T GET IT.
The frame was set up...
...for the traveler, not us.
You saw the Yasubu guy who sent the postcard, right?
That's the guy.
He planned to call for the traveler to come here and frame him.
I saw the traveler near Yasubu's house.
He heard about the case and thought it was fishy.
But we got involved.
So I asked him to let you off the hook.
SO HE CONFESSED TO GET ME OUT.
WE HAVE TO HELP HIM.
HELP ME SAVE HIM!
Actually, I don't want to get involved in any more trouble.
I'M TIRED OF FLYING AROUND.
I'LL LET YOU GO TO THE BAR IN THE NEXT TOWN!!
AND YOU CAN STAY OUT UNTIL MORNING!
Okay!! I'LL DO it!!
BRING IT ON!!

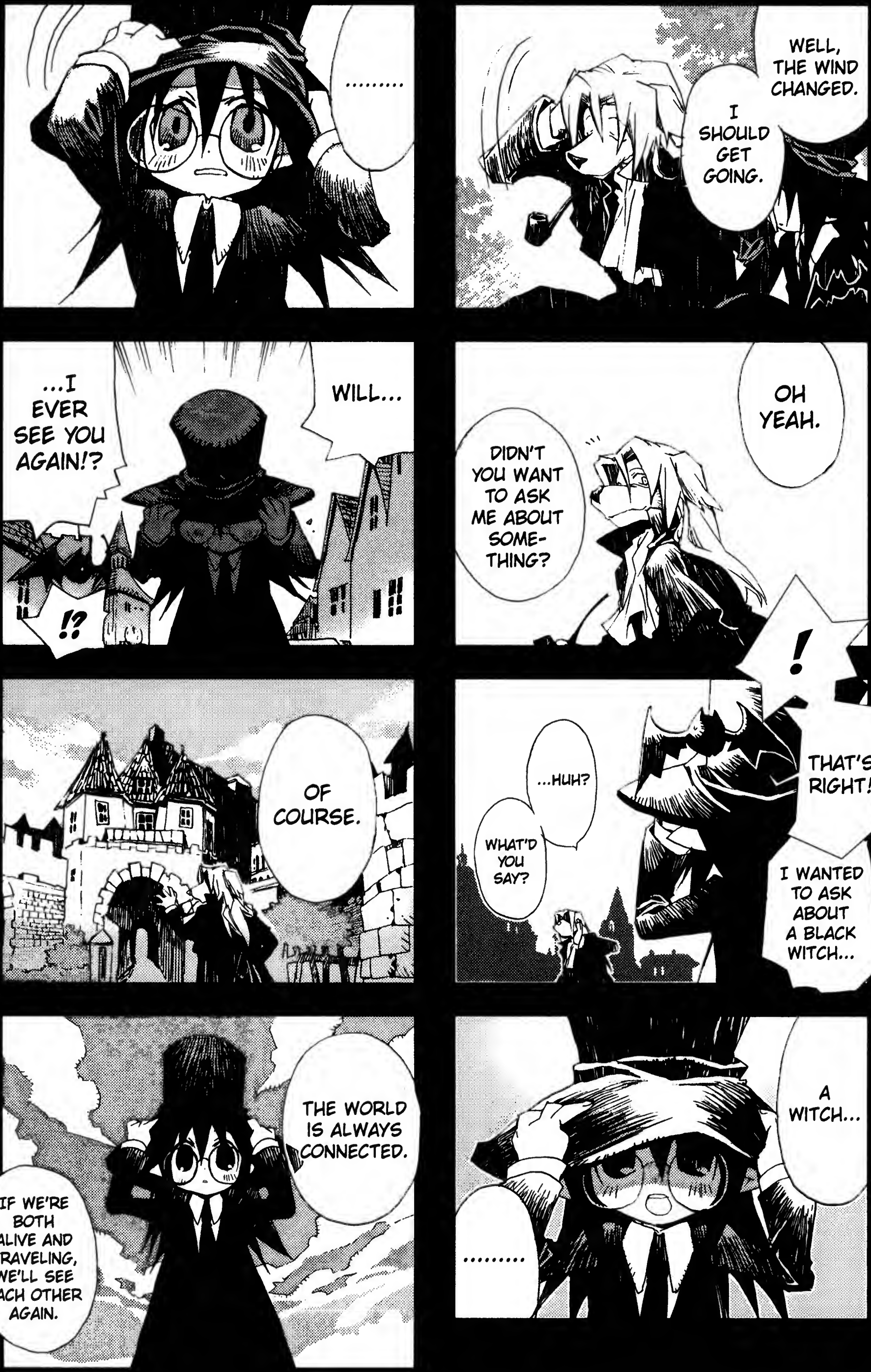

IS THIS HOUSE OKAY?
NO ONE'S HERE?
It's fine.
Hurry and go in. Someone's going to see us.
It's a room that screams "Justice" and "Loyalty."
HE SCRAPBOOKS THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES REGARDING THE TOWN.
I see. A guy like this is likely to commit a crime.
WHY? I THINK HE'S A GOOD COP.
You never know how twisted a straightlaced guy can become.
If a weird outsider takes away the popularity of the town he protects...
...WHO KNOWS HOW OFFENDED HE COULD BE?
SEN! LOOK, BLACK CLOTHES.
WHat!?
SO IT REALLY WAS HIM.
Yep.
But even if we know that, we can't do anything.
BECAUSE WE'RE TRAVELERS?
Even if we speak the same language and have the same culture...
...their logic works differently.
BUT STILL...
...WE WON'T KNOW UNLESS WE TRY!!
Hey, where are you going!?

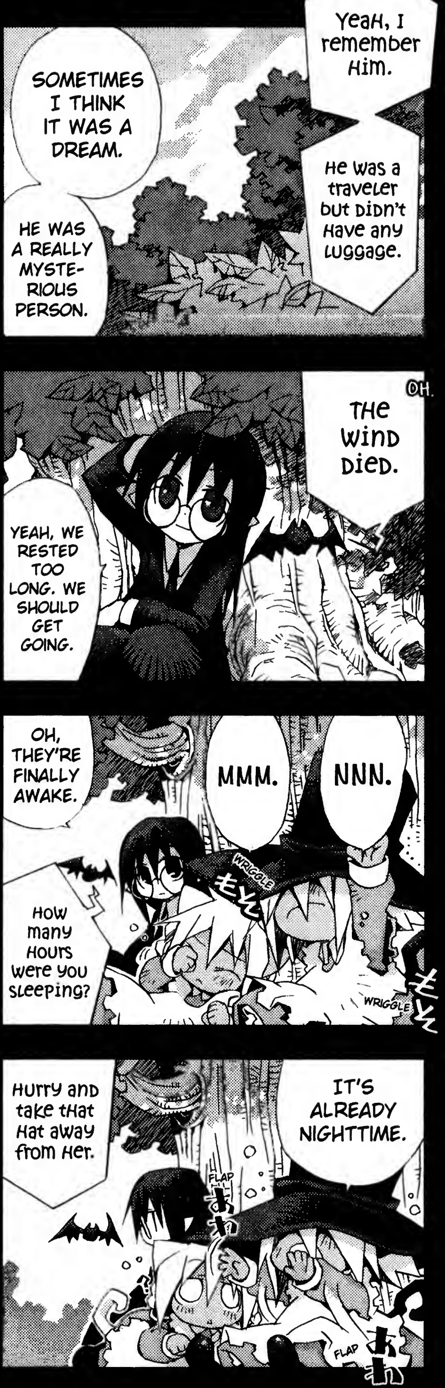

HOW'S THAT TRAVELER DOING?
HE'S BEHAVING IN THE CELL.
OKAY, WE'LL INTERROGATE HIM.
BRING HIM.
YES.
W-WAIT!!
FLAP
FLAP
UWA AH!?
FLAP
FLAP
WHAT THE!?
I FOUND SOMETHING OVER THERE.
PEEK
IS THAT ALL!?
WE ALMOST DIED HERE!!

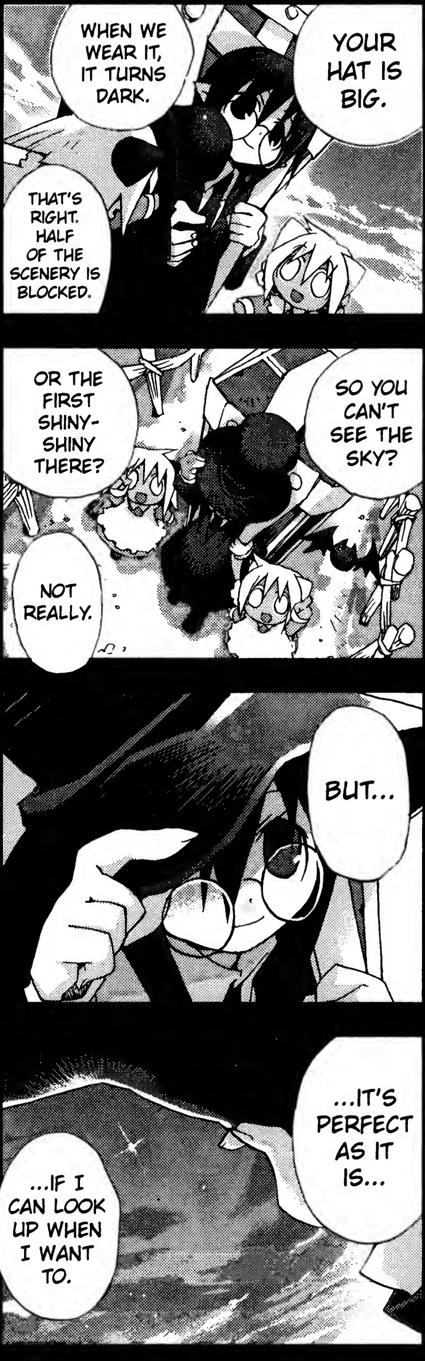

HUH? THIS IS A BLACK COAT.
AND THIS... IS THIS BLOOD!?
SAY WHAT!?
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS?
UM... BY HIS HOUSE.
WH- MINE!?
RIGHT.
I GUESS IT FELL OFF YOUR CLOTHESLINE INTO THE STREET.
You Have a lot of courage Drying the blood the Day after your murder.
STOP LYING TO ADULTS!
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE! I BURNED THAT COAT...
UH...
GASP
HEY, YASU...
HE FELL FOR THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK.

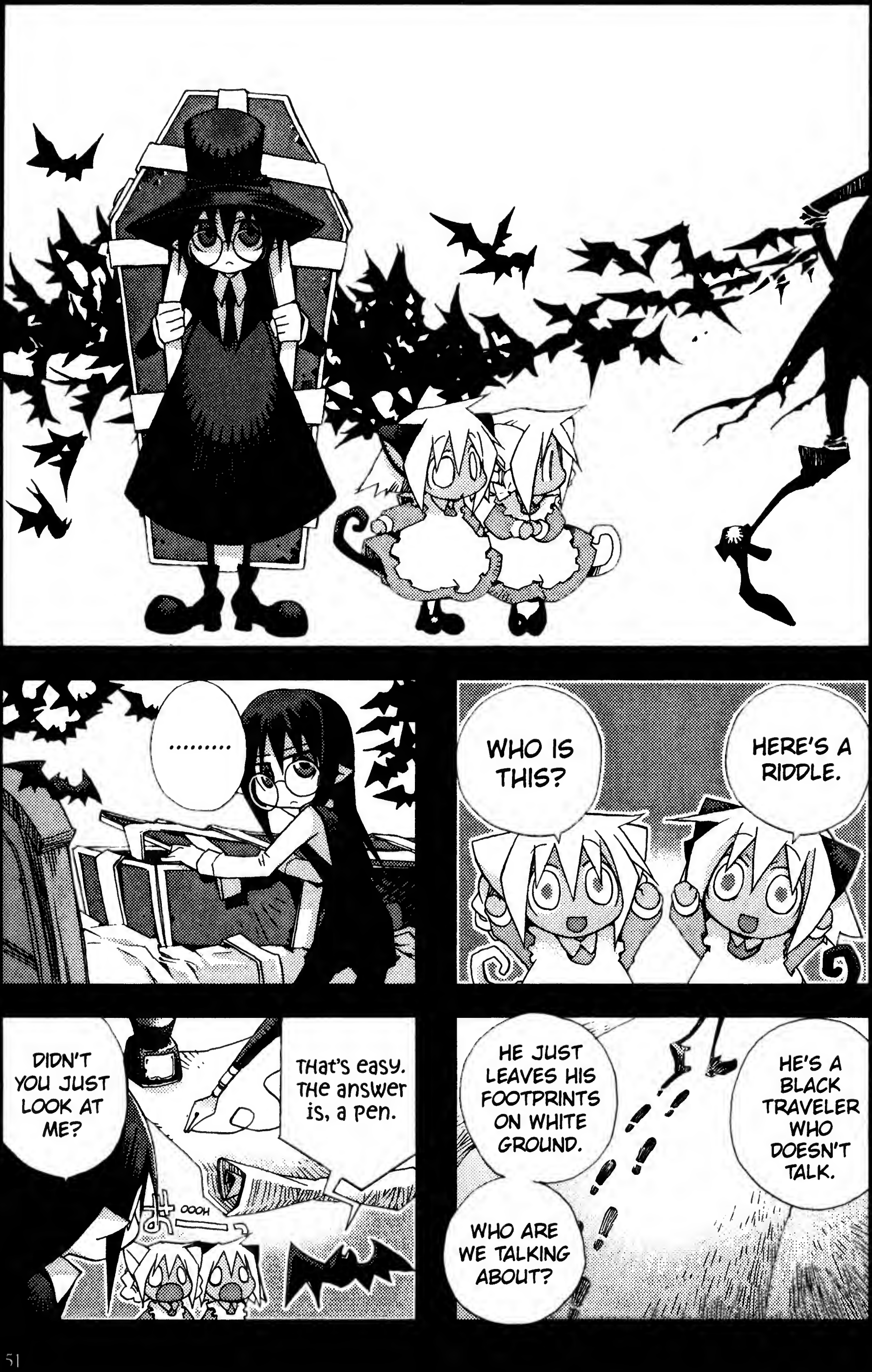

I'LL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR COAT.
I GOT IT A LITTLE DIRTY, THOUGH.
IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO MY FREEDOM.
I HAVE TO THANK YOU.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO INVOLVE YOU.
BUT I GUESS YOU SAVED ME BECAUSE OF IT.
OH! THE TRAVELER...
WHISPER
NO! STAY HERE.
WHY? WHY CAN'T I GO TALK TO HIM?
SHH!
There are no laws against bats, right?
WELL,
TRY NOT TO THROW ROCKS AT THEM.
EVEN IF THEY FIGHT BACK, THE LAW WON'T HELP YOU.
YOU WERE SO POPULAR UNTIL YESTERDAY.
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
AN OUTSIDER IS AN OUTSIDER, AFTER ALL.
YOU SEE THAT WEATHER VANE?
THAT'S US.
WE JUST GO WHEREVER THE WIND BLOWS.
WE MIGHT LOOK RIDICULOUS, THE WAY WE CHANGE WITH THE WIND.
BUT WHAT IF A REAL CHICKEN GOT UP ON THE ROOF?
CREAK
IT WOULD BE TOSSED AROUND BY EVERY WIND THAT BLOWS.
IT WOULD WANT TO GO BACK TO THE GROUND.
YOU SEEM TO HESITATE EVERY TIME THE WIND BLOWS.
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T LIKE TO TRAVEL, RIGHT?

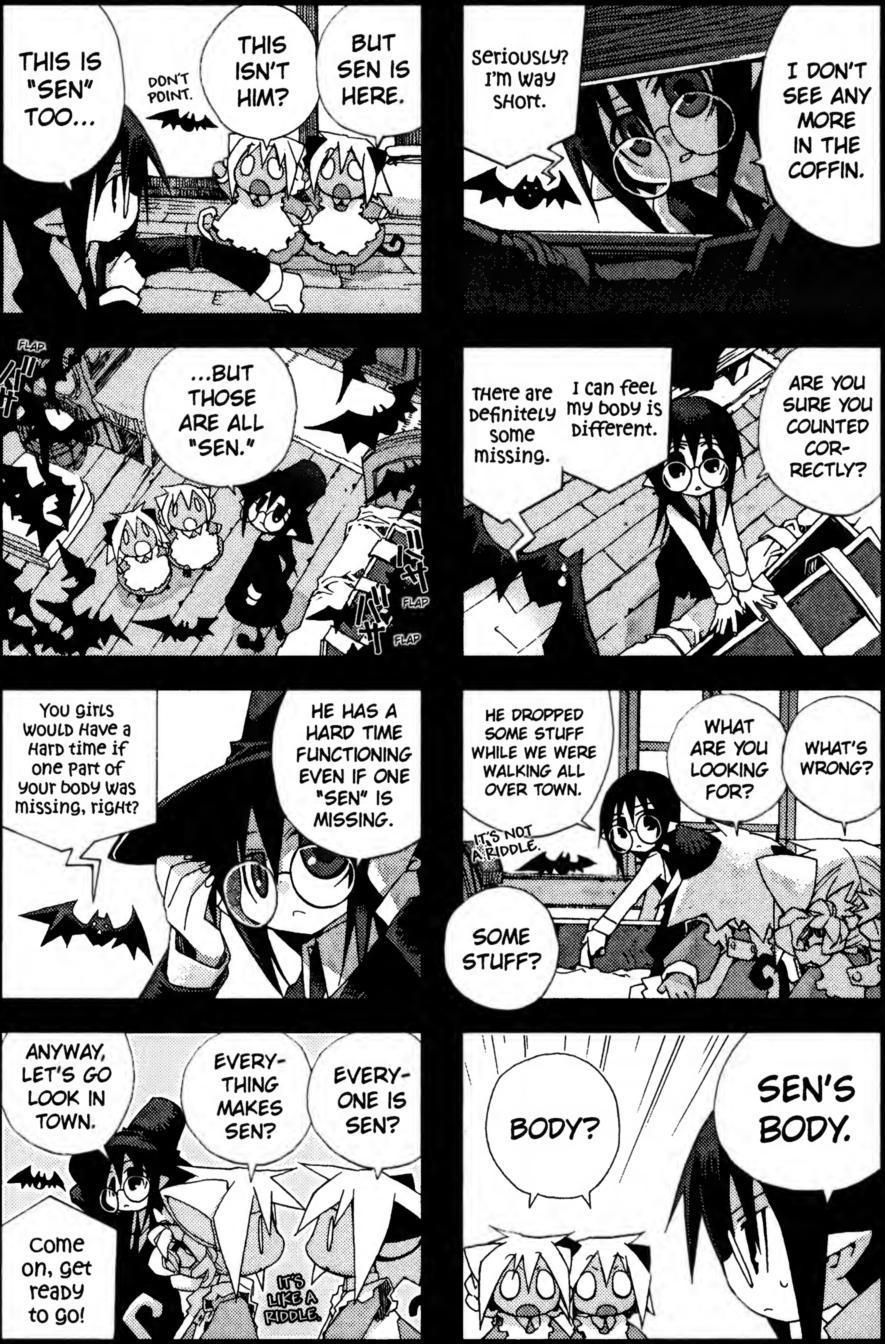

....
OH YEAH.
IF YOU'RE A "TRAVELER," YOU SHOULD WEAR A HAT.
A LONG JOURNEY BRINGS MANY THINGS.
COLD, RAINY NIGHTS AND THE SCORCHING SUN.
AND THE STARES OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
THE HAT WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THESE THINGS.
BUT...
...I CAN ONLY SEE HALF OF WHAT I CAN USUALLY SEE.
HALF IS JUST RIGHT.
IF YOU SEE THE WHOLE WORLD, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT THE WORLD IS NOT FULL OF PRETTY THINGS.
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
LOOK INSIDE MY HANDS.
EVERYTHING THE TRAVELER SEES IS THE PROPERTY AND TOOL OF THE TRAVELER.
YOU USE WHAT YOU CAN, AND WHATEVER YOU CAN'T, YOU LEAVE IN YOUR BAG.
AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE OTHER HALF OF WHAT THE HAT COVERS, YOU JUST NEED TO LIFT IT UP A BIT.
THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO TRAVEL.

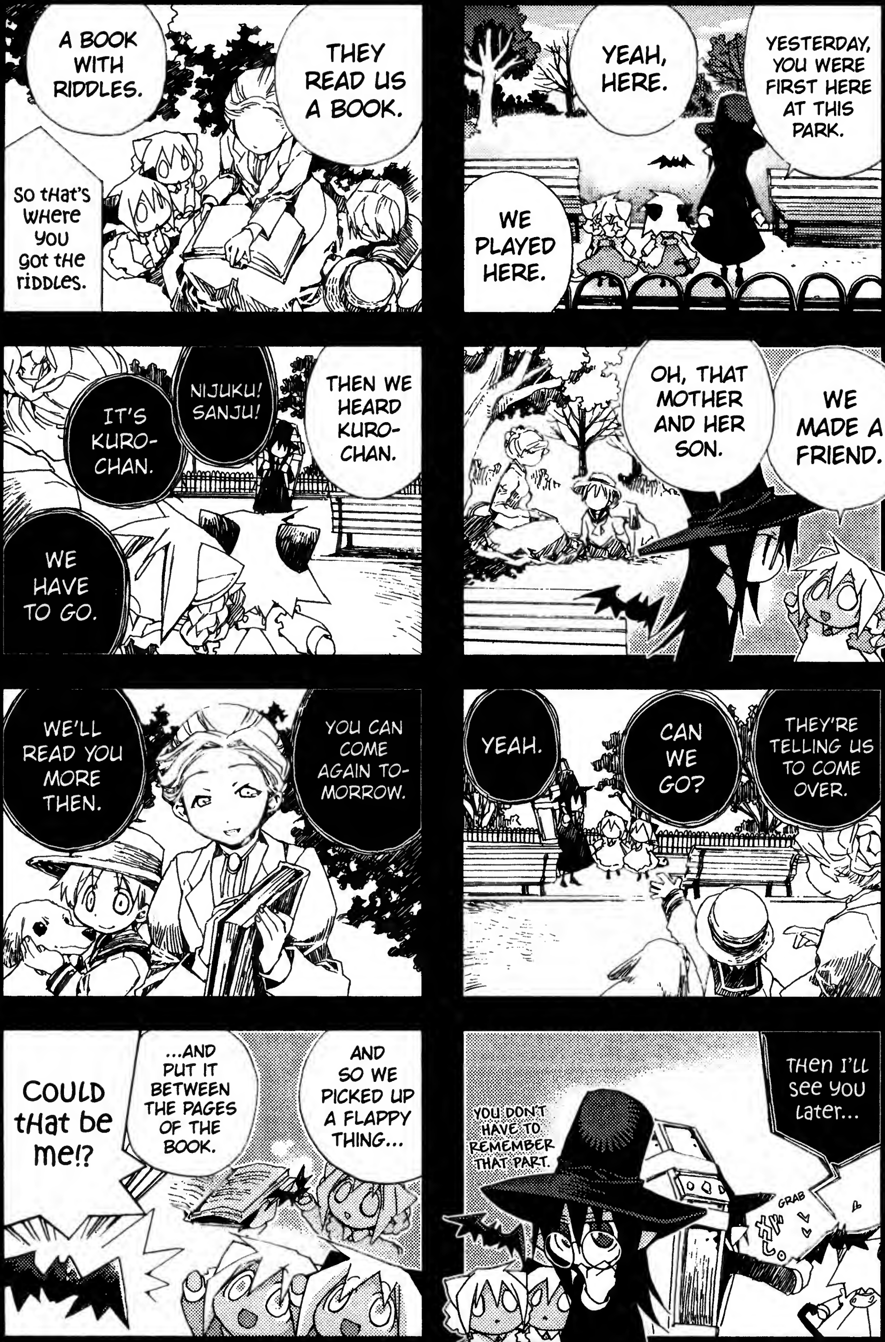

WELL, THE WIND CHANGED.
I SHOULD GET GOING.
OH YEAH.
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO ASK ME ABOUT SOME-THING?
!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT A BLACK WITCH...
...HUH?
WHAT'D YOU SAY?
A WITCH...
....
....
WILL...
...I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN!?
!?
OF COURSE.
THE WORLD IS ALWAYS CONNECTED.
IF WE'RE BOTH ALIVE AND TRAVELING, WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

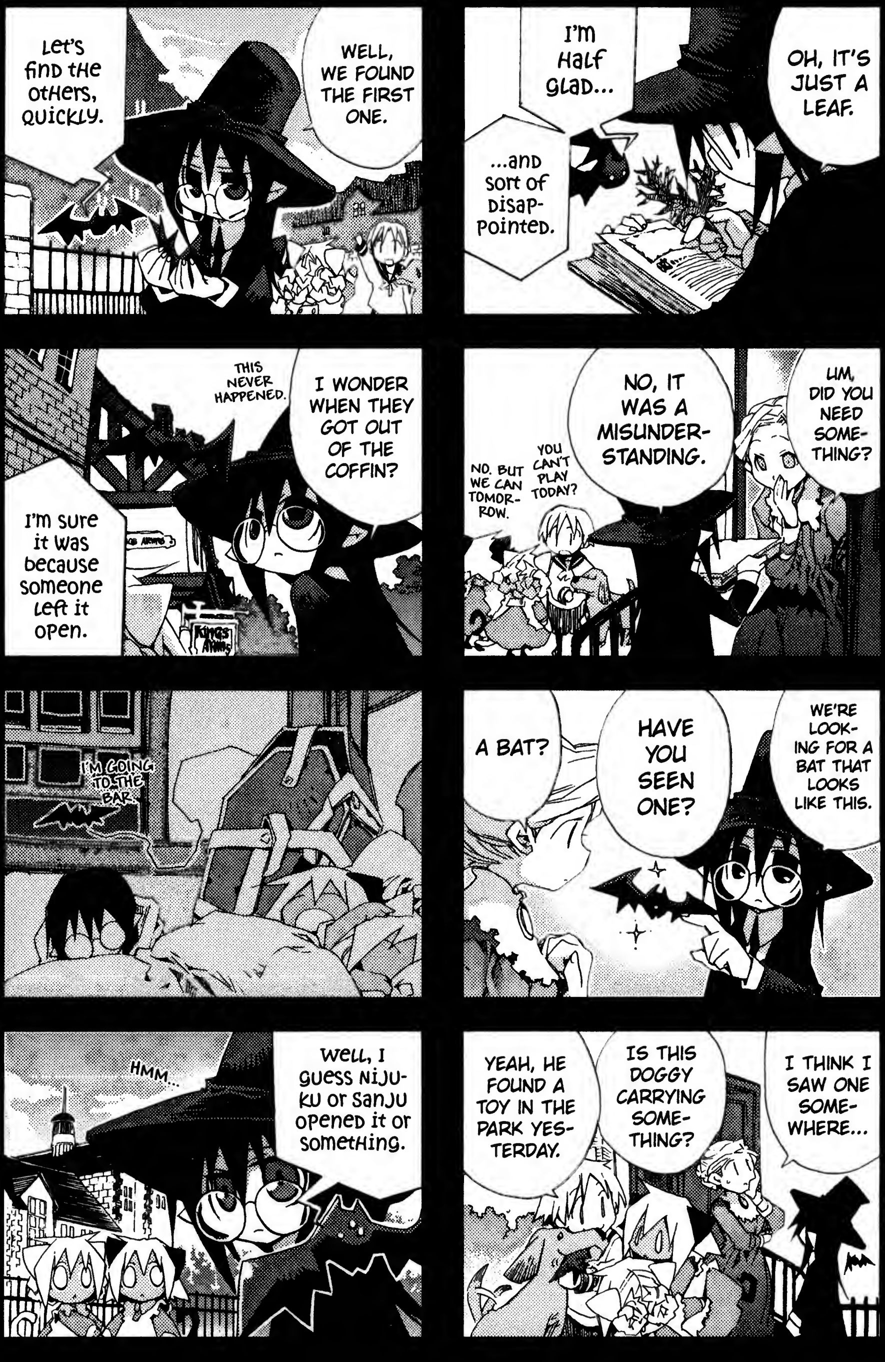

Yeah, I remember him.
He was a traveler but didn't have any luggage.
SOMETIMES I THINK IT WAS A DREAM.
HE WAS A REALLY MYSTERIOUS PERSON.
OH.
THE WIND DIED.
YEAH, WE RESTED TOO LONG. WE SHOULD GET GOING.
NNN.
MMM.
OH, THEY'RE FINALLY AWAKE.
How many hours were you sleeping?
WRIGGLE
もそ
WRIGGLE
もそ
IT'S ALREADY NIGHTTIME.
Hurry and take that hat away from her.
FLAP
FLAP

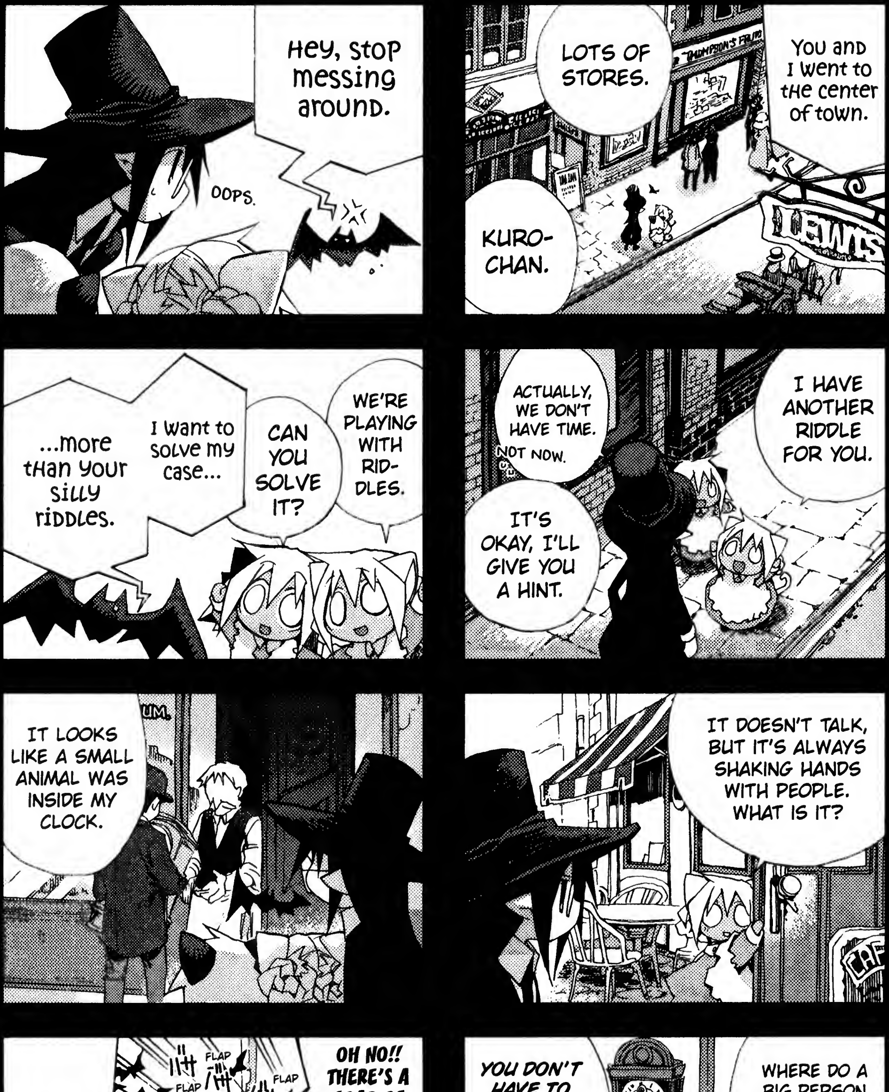

YOUR HAT IS BIG.
WHEN WE WEAR IT, IT TURNS DARK.
THAT'S RIGHT. HALF OF THE SCENERY IS BLOCKED.
SO YOU CAN'T SEE THE SKY?
OR THE FIRST SHINY-SHINY THERE?
NOT REALLY.
BUT...
...IT'S PERFECT AS IT IS...
...IF I CAN LOOK UP WHEN I WANT TO.

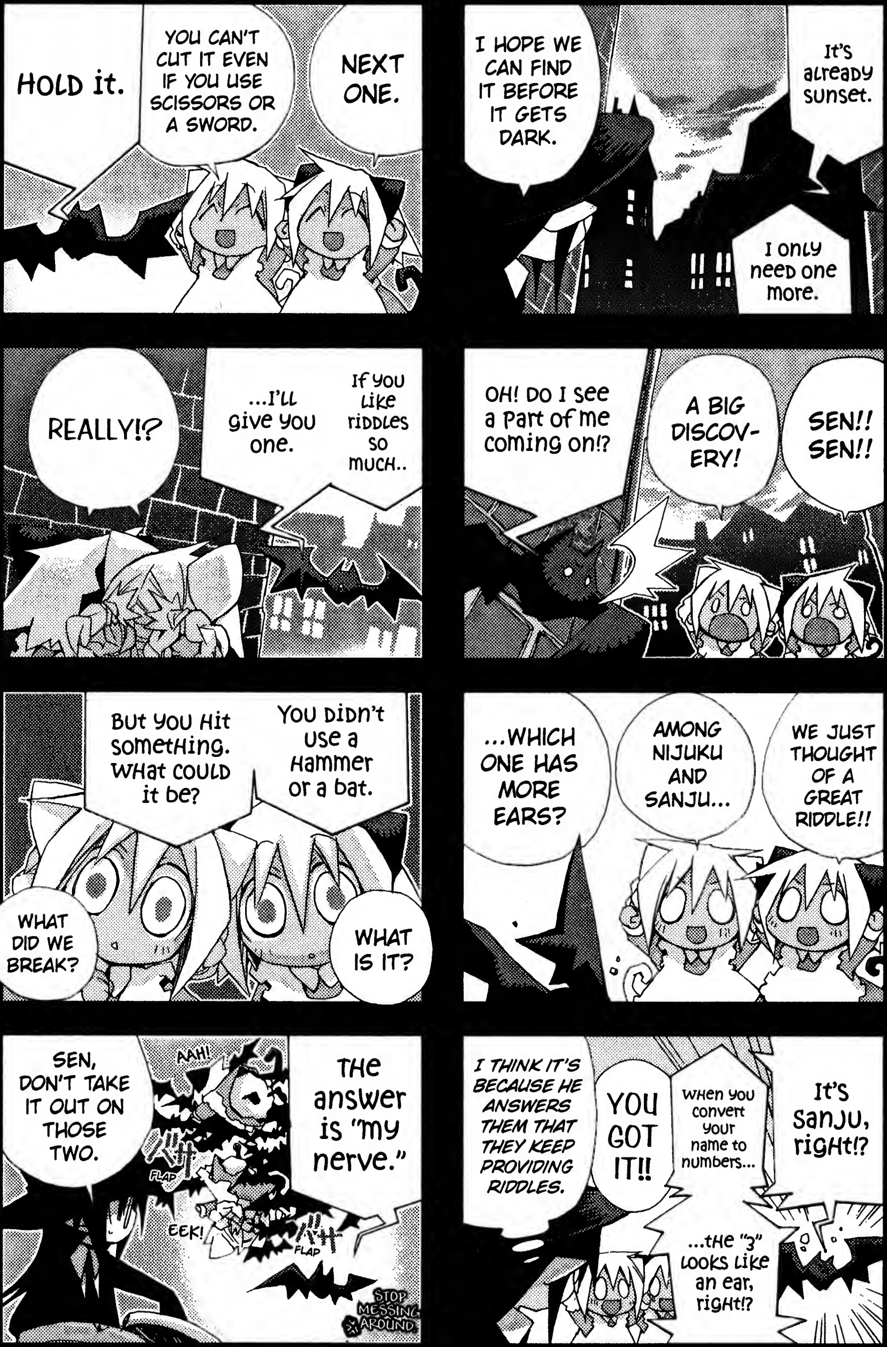

HERE'S A RIDDLE.
WHO IS THIS?
....
HE'S A BLACK TRAVELER WHO DOESN'T TALK.
HE JUST LEAVES HIS FOOTPRINTS ON WHITE GROUND.
WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
That's easy. The answer is, a pen.
DIDN'T YOU JUST LOOK AT ME?
OOOH

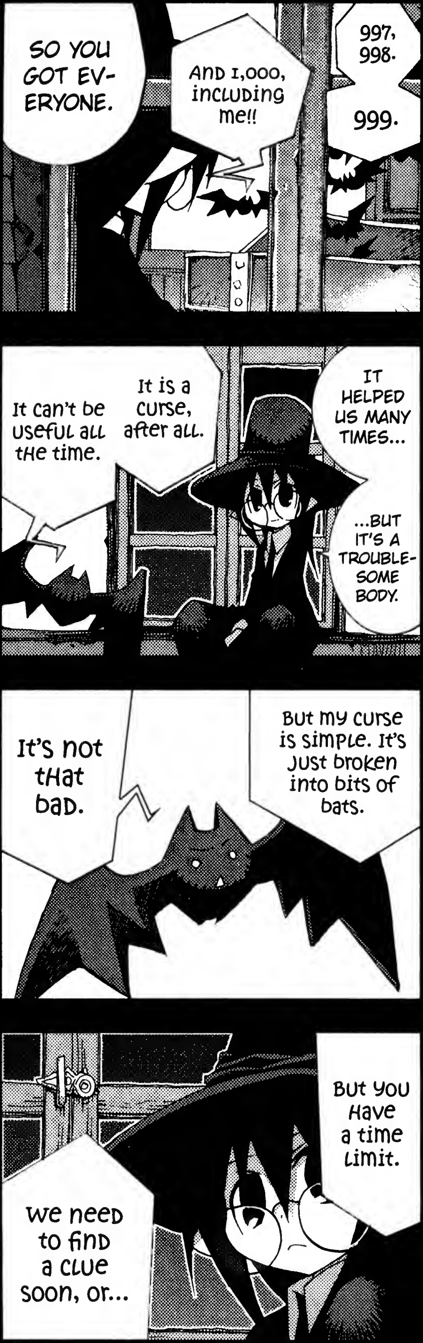

I DON'T SEE ANY MORE IN THE COFFIN.
Seriously? I'm way short.
ARE YOU SURE YOU COUNTED CORRECTLY?
I can feel my body is different.
There are definitely some missing.
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
HE DROPPED SOME STUFF WHILE WE WERE WALKING ALL OVER TOWN.
IT'S NOT A RIDDLE.
SOME STUFF?
SEN'S BODY.
BODY?
BUT SEN IS HERE.
THIS ISN'T HIM?
DON'T POINT.
THIS IS "SEN" TOO...
FLAP
...BUT THOSE ARE ALL "SEN."
FLAP
FLAP
HE HAS A HARD TIME FUNCTIONING EVEN IF ONE "SEN" IS MISSING.
You girls would have a hard time if one part of your body was missing, right?
EVERYONE IS SEN?
EVERYTHING MAKES SEN?
ANYWAY, LET'S GO LOOK IN TOWN.
IT'S LIKE A RIDDLE.
Come on, get ready to go!

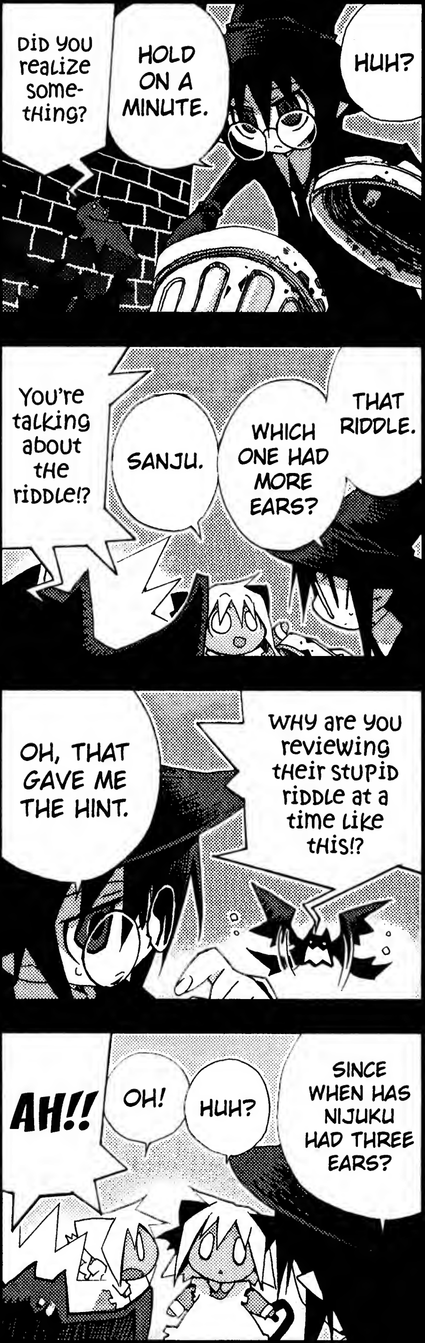

YESTERDAY, YOU WERE FIRST HERE AT THIS PARK.
YEAH, HERE.
WE PLAYED HERE.
WE MADE A FRIEND.
OH, THAT MOTHER AND HER SON.
THEY'RE TELLING US TO COME OVER.
CAN WE GO?
YEAH.
Then I'll see you later...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT PART.
GRAB
THEY READ US A BOOK.
A BOOK WITH RIDDLES.
So that's where you got the riddles.
THEN WE HEARD KURO-CHAN.
NIJUKU! SANJU!
IT'S KURO-CHAN.
WE HAVE TO GO.
YOU CAN COME AGAIN TO-MORROW.
WE'LL READ YOU MORE THEN.
AND SO WE PICKED UP A FLAPPY THING...
...AND PUT IT BETWEEN THE PAGES OF THE BOOK.
COULD that be me!?

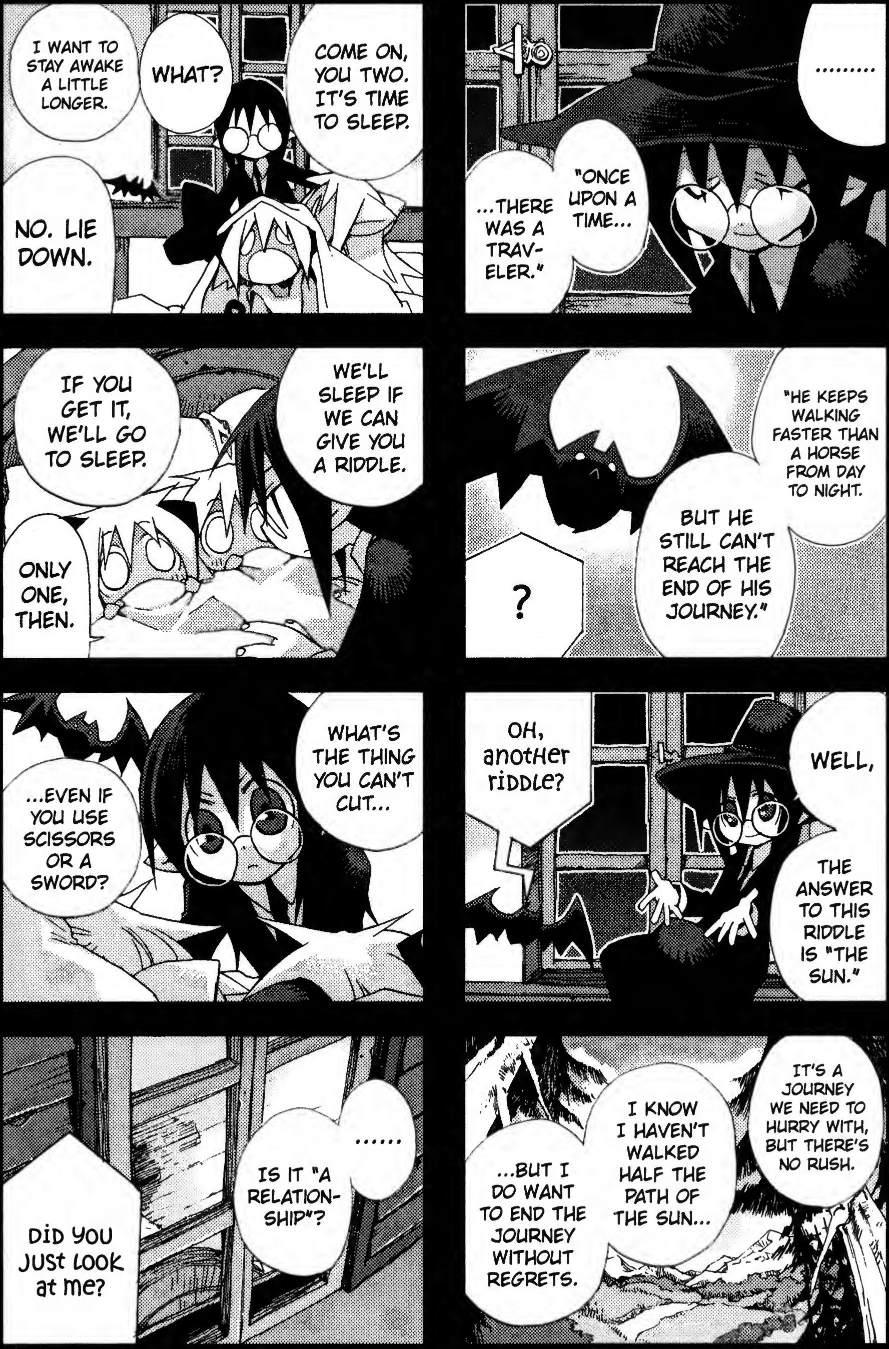

OH, IT'S JUST A LEAF.
I'm Half glad...
...and sort of disappointed.
UM, DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
NO, IT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING.
YOU CAN'T PLAY TODAY?
NO. BUT WE CAN TOMORROW.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A BAT THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS.
HAVE YOU SEEN ONE?
A BAT?
I THINK I SAW ONE SOMEWHERE...
IS THIS DOGGY CARRYING SOMETHING?
YEAH, HE FOUND A TOY IN THE PARK YESTERDAY.
WELL, WE FOUND THE FIRST ONE.
Let's find the others, quickly.
I WONDER WHEN THEY GOT OUT OF THE COFFIN?
THIS NEVER HAPPENED.
I'm sure it was because someone left it open.
Kings Arms
I'M GOING TO THE BAR.
HMM...
Well, I guess Niju-ku or Sanju opened it or something.

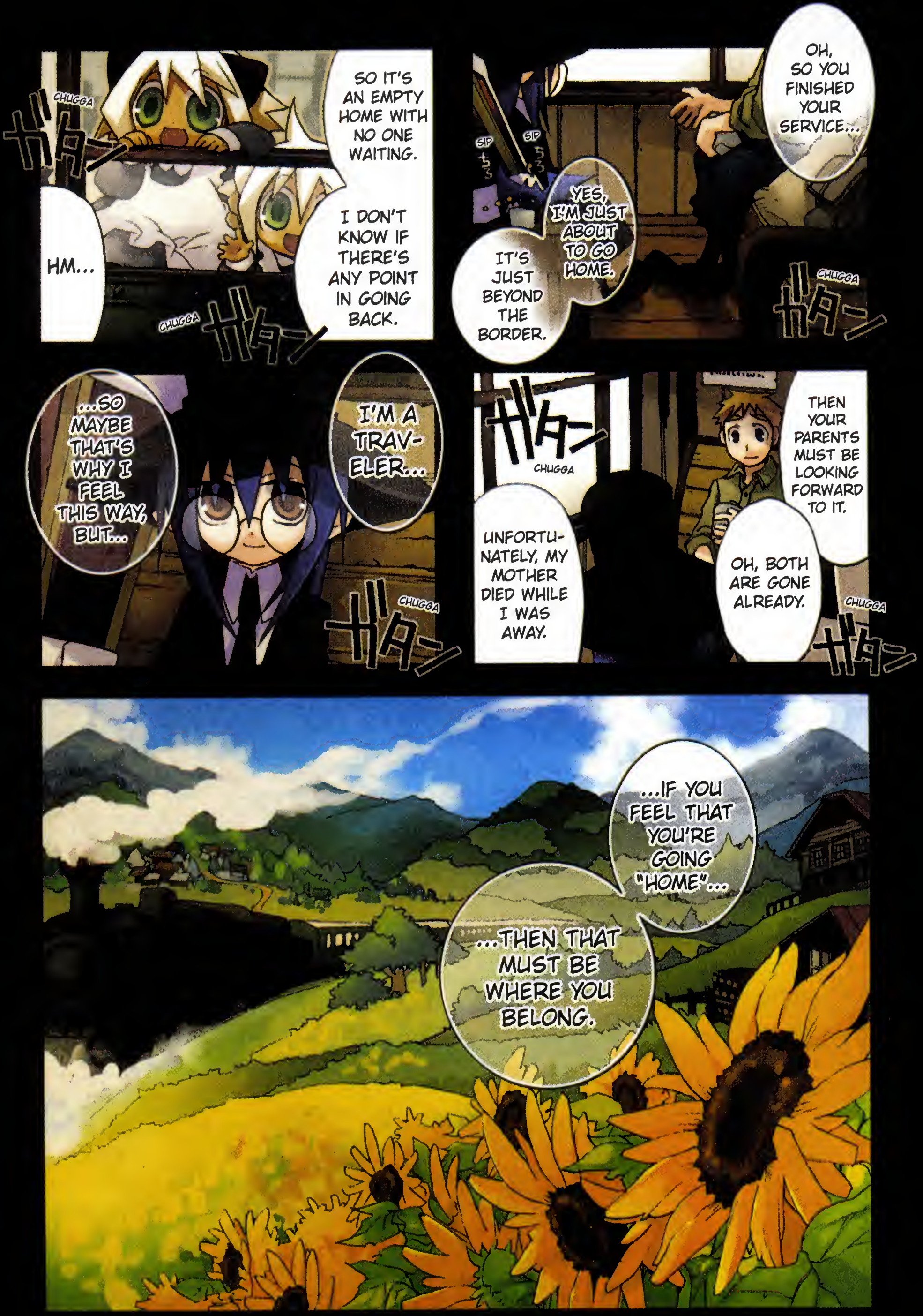

You and I went to the center of town.
LOTS OF STORES.
KURO-CHAN.
I HAVE ANOTHER RIDDLE FOR YOU.
ACTUALLY, WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
NOT NOW.
IT'S OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT.
IT DOESN'T TALK, BUT IT'S ALWAYS SHAKING HANDS WITH PEOPLE. WHAT IS IT?
WHERE DO A BIG PERSON AND A LITTLE PERSON CHASE AFTER EACH OTHER?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO POINT IT OUT SO OBVIOUSLY.
Hey, stop messing around.
OOPS.
WE'RE PLAYING WITH RIDDLES.
CAN YOU SOLVE IT?
I want to solve my case...
...more than your silly riddles.
IT LOOKS LIKE A SMALL ANIMAL WAS INSIDE MY CLOCK.
OH NO!! THERE'S A LOAD OF BATS IN THE KITCHEN!!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
WHAT?

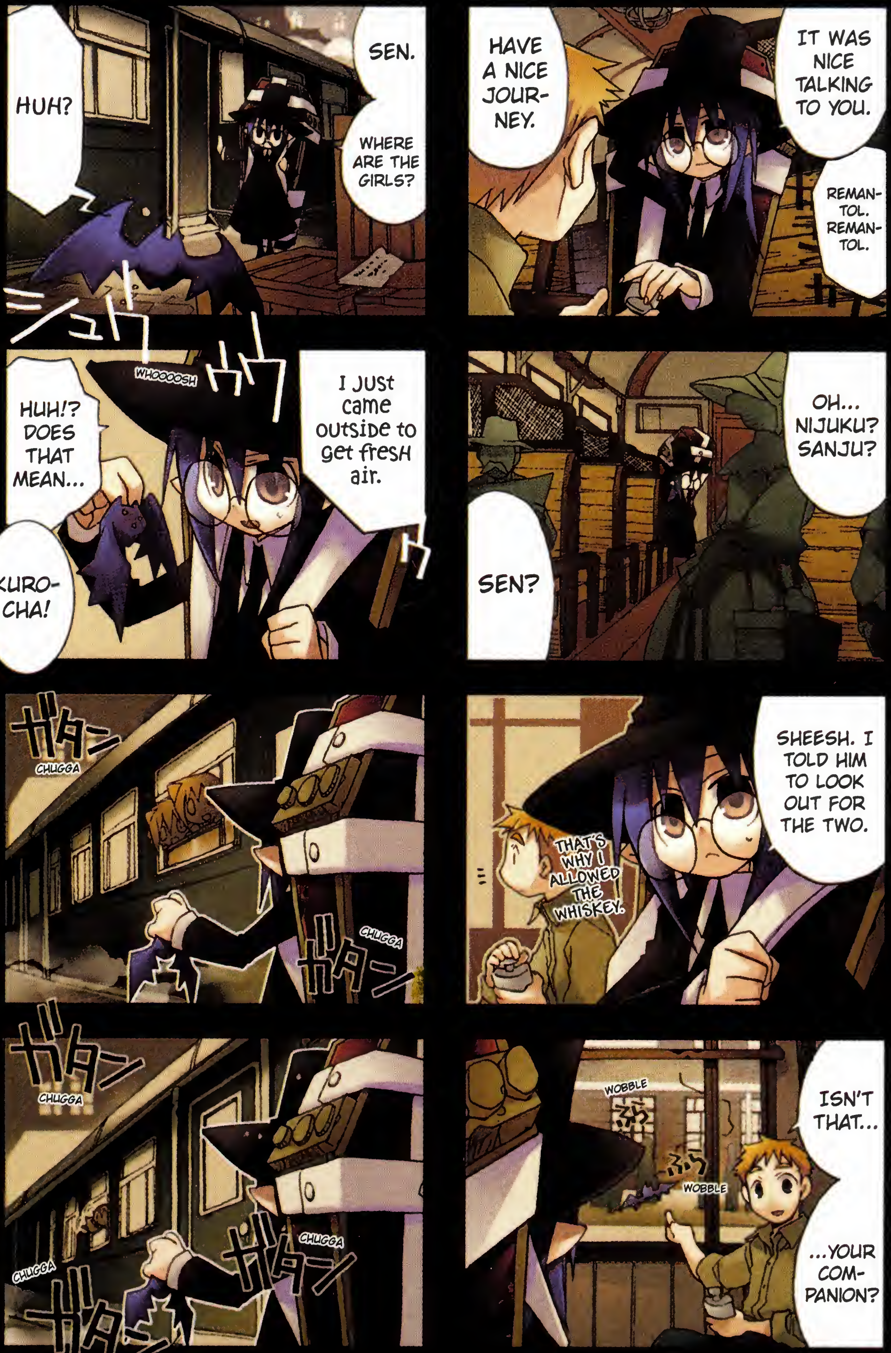

It's already sunset.
I HOPE WE CAN FIND IT BEFORE IT GETS DARK.
I only need one more.
SEN!! SEN!!
A BIG DISCOV-ERY!
OH! DO I see a Part of me coming on!?
WE JUST THOUGHT OF A GREAT RIDDLE!!
AMONG NIJUKU AND SANJU...
...WHICH ONE HAS MORE EARS?
It's Sanju, right!?
When you convert your name to numbers...
...the "3" looks like an ear, right!?
YOU GOT IT!!
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE HE ANSWERS THEM THAT THEY KEEP PROVIDING RIDDLES.
NEXT ONE.
YOU CAN'T CUT IT EVEN IF YOU USE SCISSORS OR A SWORD.
HOLD it.
If you like riddles so much..
...I'll give you one.
REALLY!?
You didn't use a Hammer or a bat.
But you Hit something. What could it be?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT DID WE BREAK?
The answer is "my nerve."
AAH!
バサ FLAP
EEK!
バサ FLAP
SEN, DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON THOSE TWO.
STOP MESSING AROUND

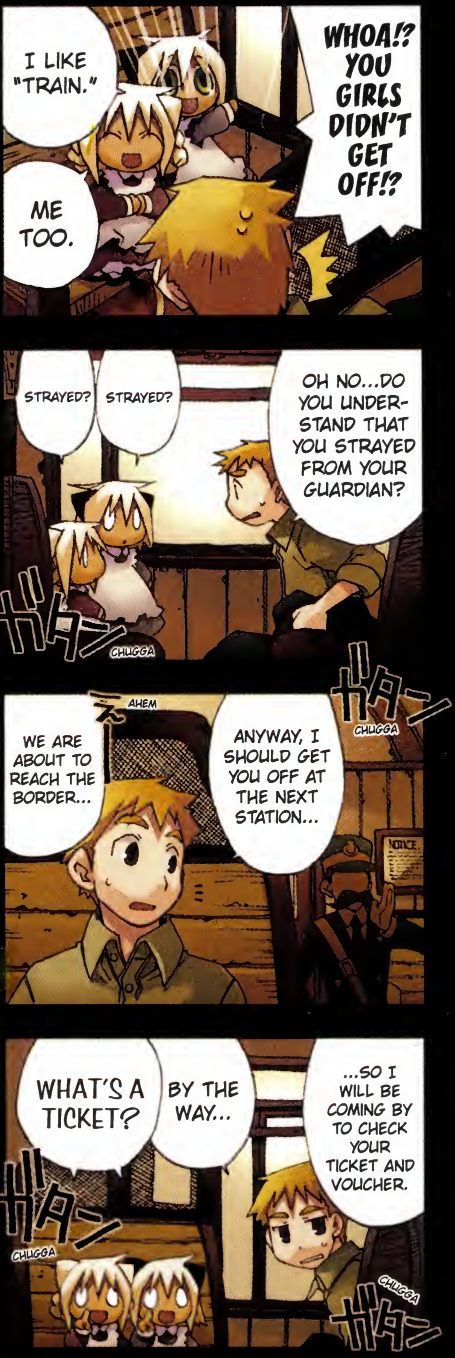

997, 998.
999.
And 1,000, including me!!
So you got everyone.
It helped us many times...
...but it's a troublesome body.
It is a curse, after all.
It can't be useful all the time.
But my curse is simple. It's just broken into bits of bats.
It's not that bad.
But you have a time limit.
We need to find a clue soon, or...

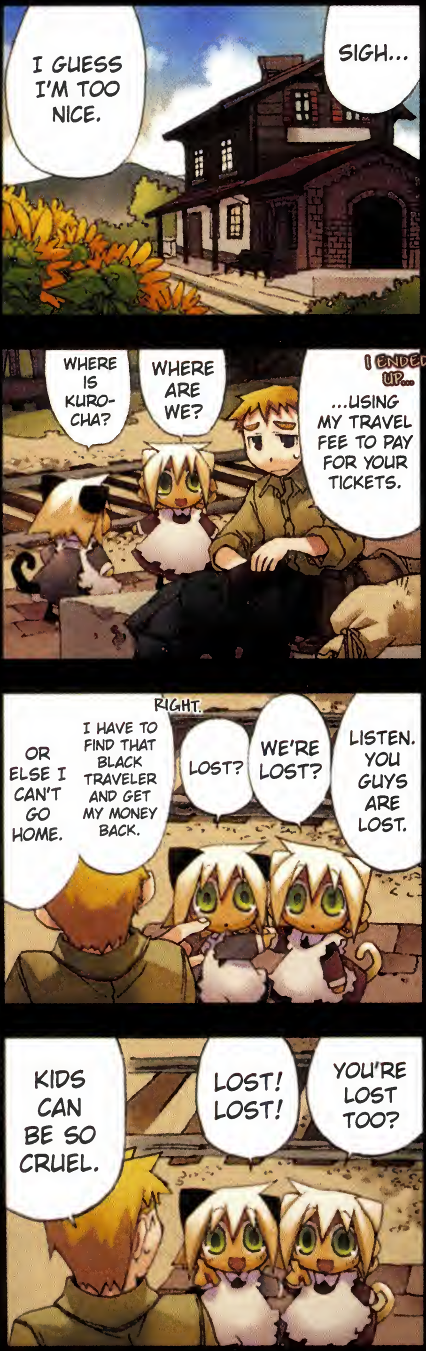

Huh?
Hold on a minute.
Did you realize something?
That riddle.
Which one had more ears?
Sanju.
You're talking about the riddle!?
Why are you reviewing their stupid riddle at a time like this!?
Oh, that gave me the hint.
Since when has Nijuku had three ears?
Huh?
Oh!
AH!!

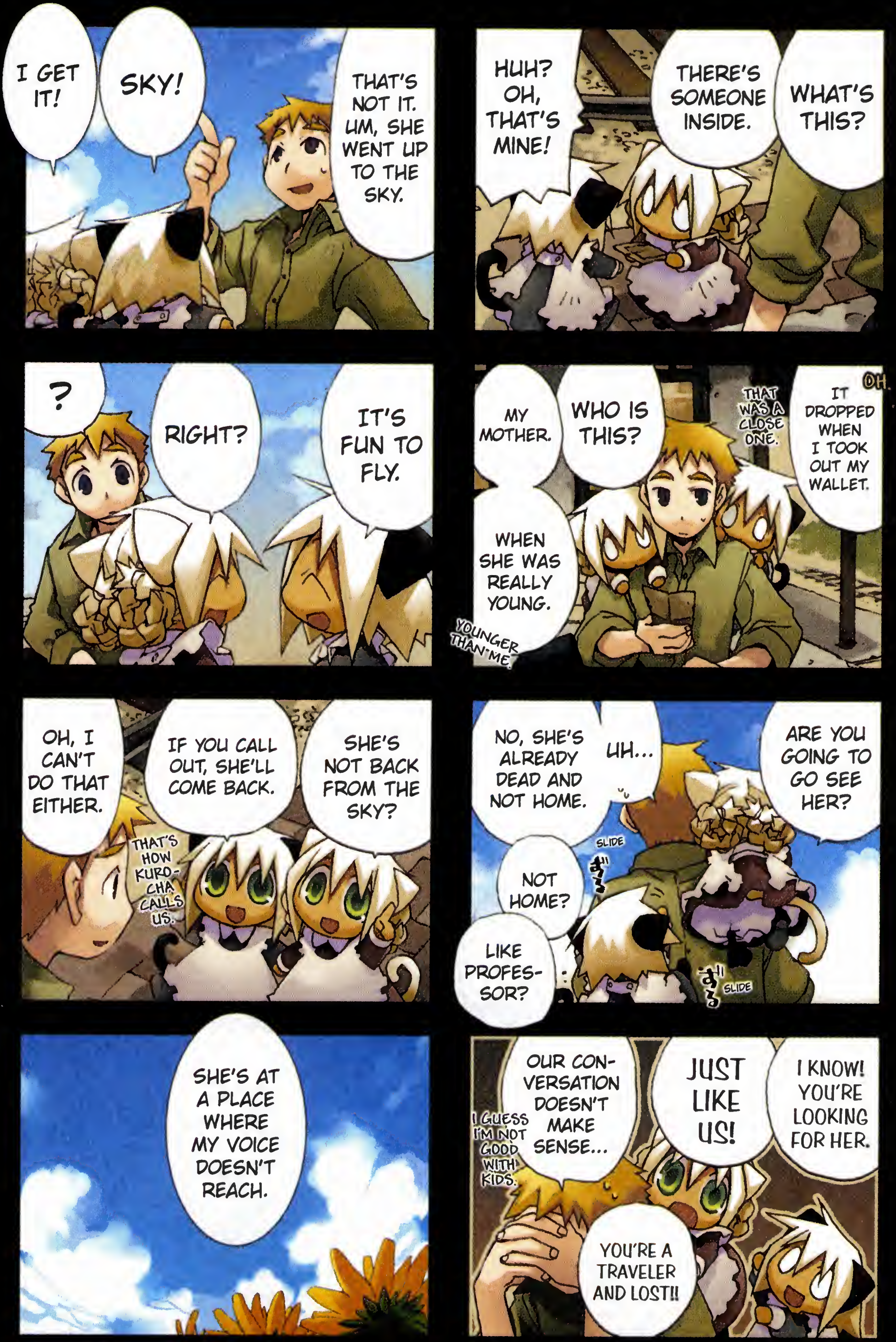

COME ON, YOU TWO. IT'S TIME TO SLEEP.
WHAT?
I WANT TO STAY AWAKE A LITTLE LONGER.
NO. LIE DOWN.
WE'LL SLEEP IF WE CAN GIVE YOU A RIDDLE.
IF YOU GET IT, WE'LL GO TO SLEEP.
ONLY ONE, THEN.
WHAT'S THE THING YOU CAN'T CUT...
...EVEN IF YOU USE SCISSORS OR A SWORD?
......
IS IT "A RELATIONSHIP"?
DID YOU JUST LOOK AT ME?
....
"ONCE UPON A TIME...
...THERE WAS A TRAVELER."
"HE KEEPS WALKING FASTER THAN A HORSE FROM DAY TO NIGHT.
BUT HE STILL CAN'T REACH THE END OF HIS JOURNEY."
?
OH, another riddle?
WELL,
THE ANSWER TO THIS RIDDLE IS "THE SUN."
IT'S A JOURNEY WE NEED TO HURRY WITH, BUT THERE'S NO RUSH.
I KNOW I HAVEN'T WALKED HALF THE PATH OF THE SUN...
...BUT I DO WANT TO END THE JOURNEY WITHOUT REGRETS.

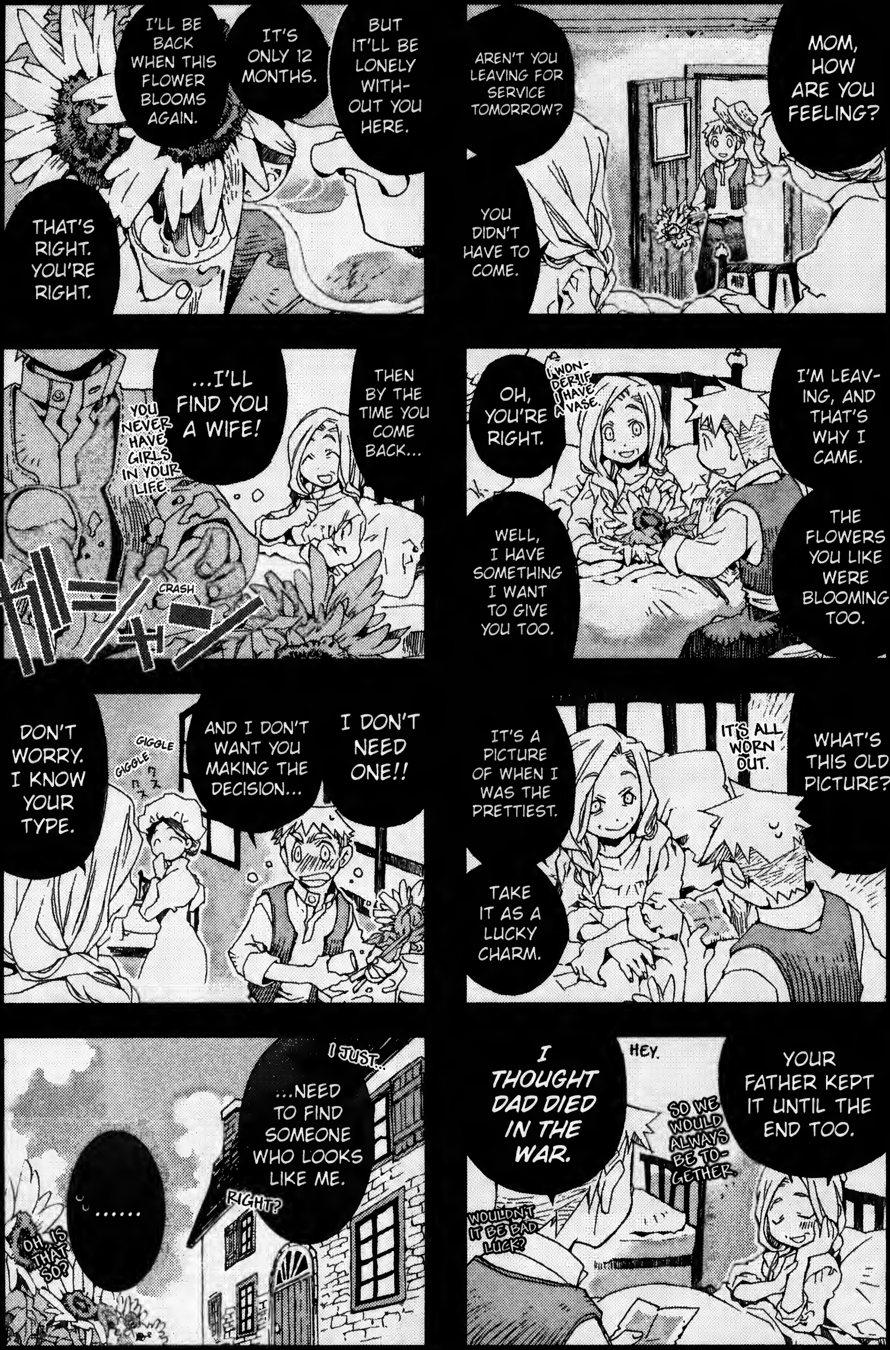

OH, SO YOU FINISHED YOUR SERVICE...
SIP
SIP
YES, I'M JUST ABOUT TO GO HOME.
IT'S JUST BEYOND THE BORDER.
CHUGGA
ガタン
THEN YOUR PARENTS MUST BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
OH, BOTH ARE GONE ALREADY.
ガタン
CHUGGA
UNFORTUNATELY, MY MOTHER DIED WHILE I WAS AWAY.
CHUGGA
ガタン
SO IT'S AN EMPTY HOME WITH NO ONE WAITING.
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S ANY POINT IN GOING BACK.
CHUGGA
ガタン
HM...
CHUGGA
ガタン
I'M A TRAVELER...
...SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY I FEEL THIS WAY, BUT...
CHUGGA
ガタン
...IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE GOING "HOME"...
...THEN THAT MUST BE WHERE YOU BELONG.

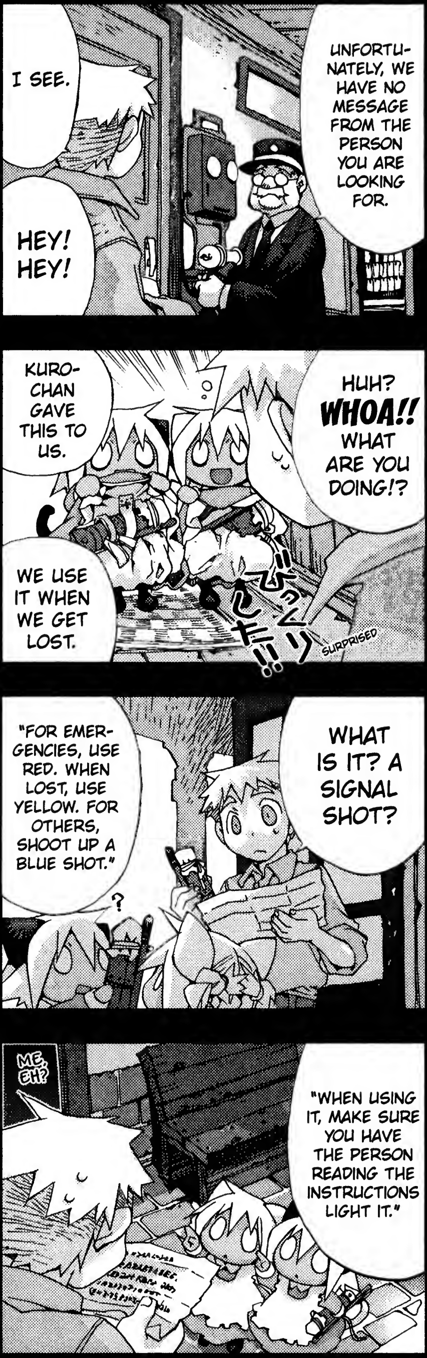

IT WAS NICE TALKING TO YOU.
HAVE A NICE JOURNEY.
REMANTOL. REMANTOL.
OH... NIJUKU? SANJU?
SEN?
SHEESH. I TOLD HIM TO LOOK OUT FOR THE TWO.
THAT'S WHY I ALLOWED THE WHISKEY.
...
ISN'T THAT...
...YOUR COMPANION?
ふら
WOBBLE
ふら
WOBBLE
SEN.
WHERE ARE THE GIRLS?
HUH?
シュウウ
WHOOOOSH
I JUST CAME OUTSIDE TO GET FRESH AIR.
HUH!? DOES THAT MEAN...
KURO-CHA!
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA

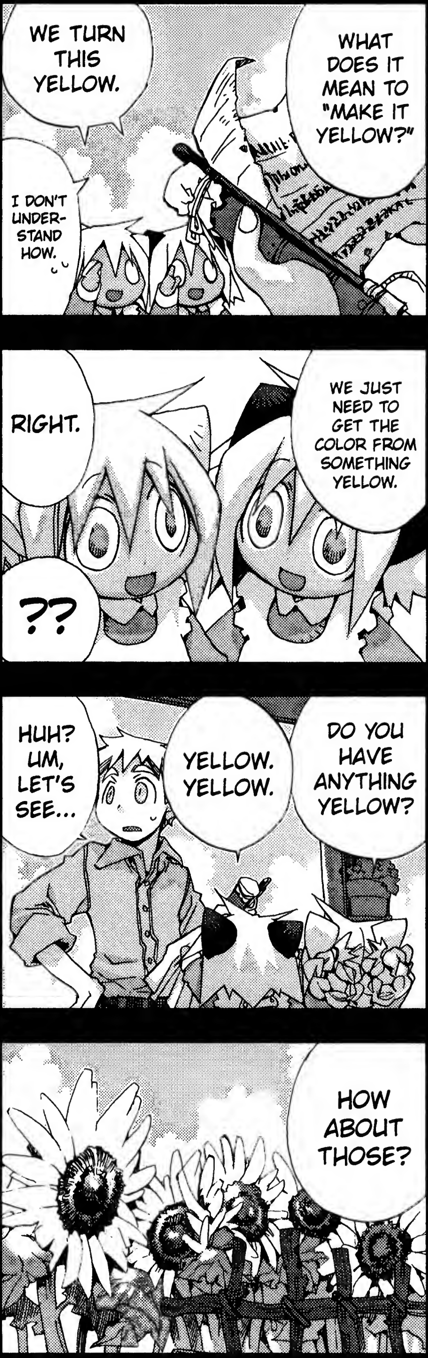

WHOA!? YOU GIRLS DIDN'T GET OFF!?
I LIKE "TRAIN."
ME TOO.
OH NO...DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU STRAYED FROM YOUR GUARDIAN?
STRAYED?
STRAYED?
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA
ANYWAY, I SHOULD GET YOU OFF AT THE NEXT STATION...
えー
AHEM
WE ARE ABOUT TO REACH THE BORDER...
NOTICE
...SO I WILL BE COMING BY TO CHECK YOUR TICKET AND VOUCHER.
BY THE WAY...
WHAT'S A TICKET?
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA

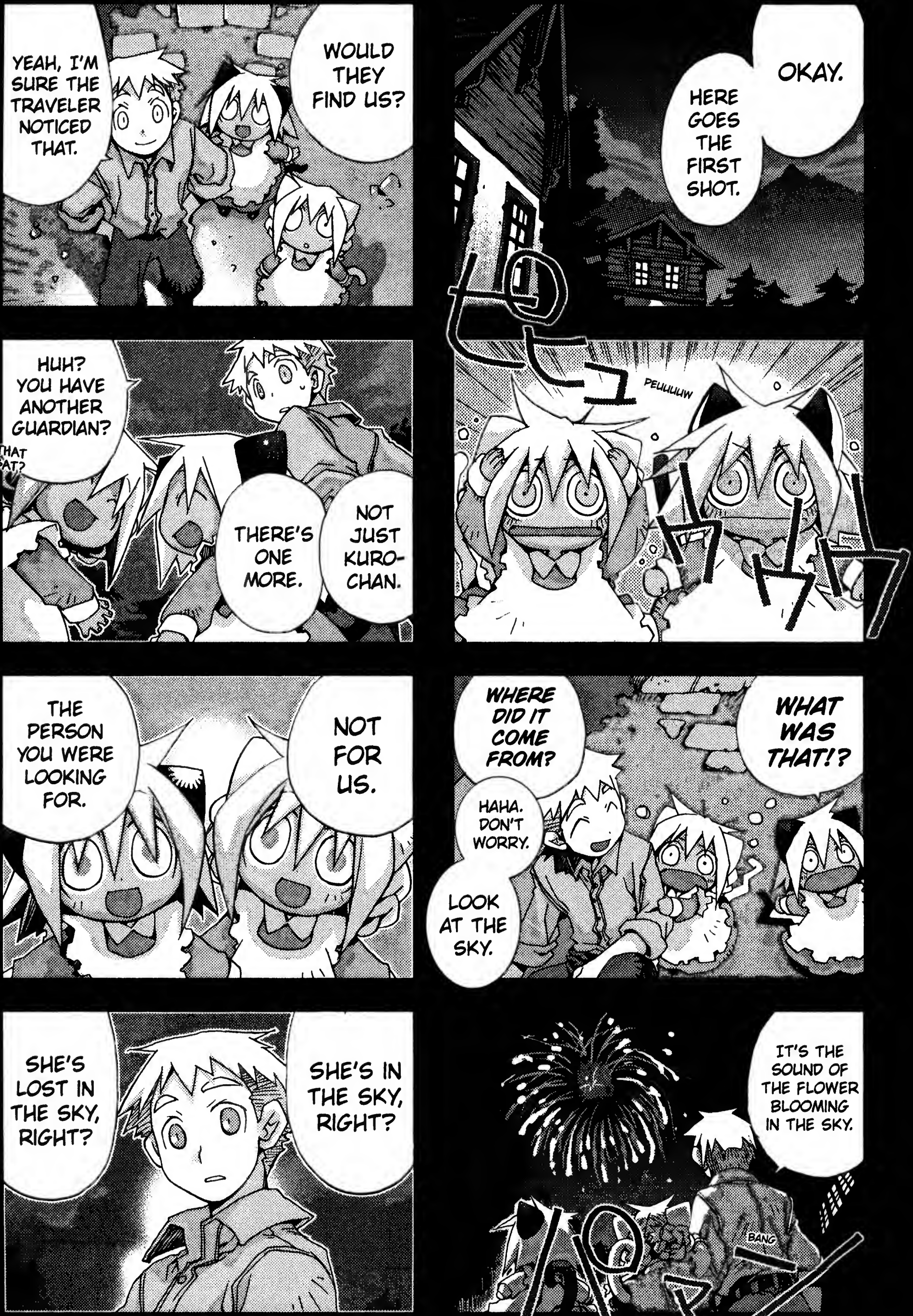

SIGH...
I GUESS I'M TOO NICE.
I ENDED UP...
...USING MY TRAVEL FEE TO PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS.
WHERE ARE WE?
WHERE IS KURO-CHA?
LISTEN. YOU GUYS ARE LOST.
WE'RE LOST?
LOST?
RIGHT.
I HAVE TO FIND THAT BLACK TRAVELER AND GET MY MONEY BACK.
OR ELSE I CAN'T GO HOME.
YOU'RE LOST TOO?
LOST! LOST!
KIDS CAN BE SO CRUEL.

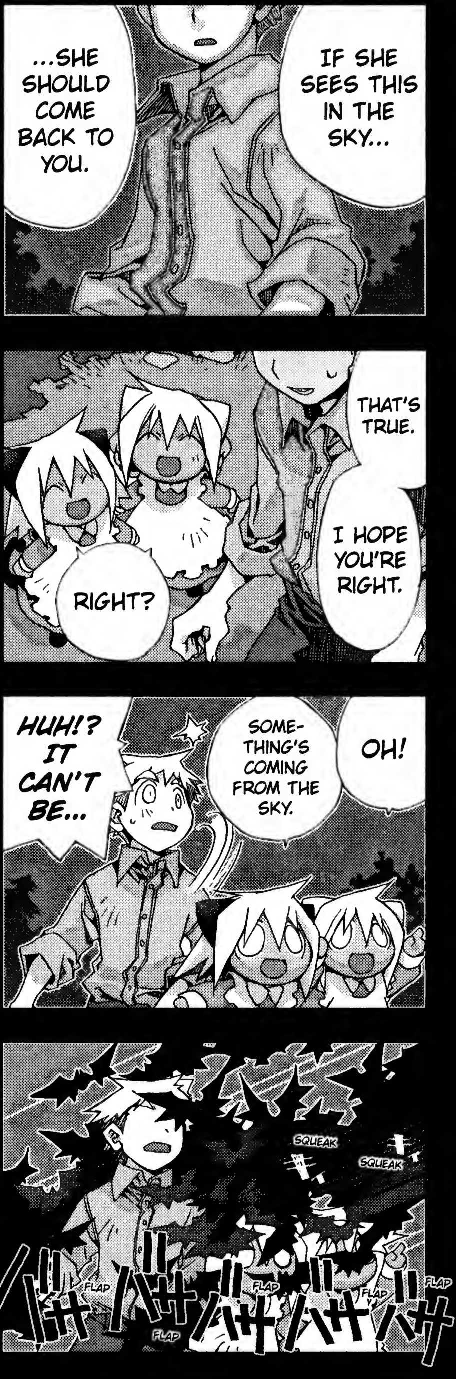

WHAT'S THIS?
THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE.
HUH? OH, THAT'S MINE!
OH.
IT DROPPED WHEN I TOOK OUT MY WALLET.
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
WHO IS THIS?
MY MOTHER.
WHEN SHE WAS REALLY YOUNG.
YOUNGER THAN ME.
ARE YOU GOING TO GO SEE HER?
UH...
NO, SHE'S ALREADY DEAD AND NOT HOME.
SLIDE
SLIDE
NOT HOME?
LIKE PROFESSOR?
I KNOW! YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HER.
JUST LIKE US!
OUR CONVERSATION DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
I GUESS I'M NOT GOOD WITH KIDS.
YOU'RE A TRAVELER AND LOST!!
THAT'S NOT IT. UM, SHE WENT UP TO THE SKY.
SKY!
I GET IT!
IT'S FUN TO FLY.
RIGHT?
?
SHE'S NOT BACK FROM THE SKY?
IF YOU CALL OUT, SHE'LL COME BACK.
THAT'S HOW KURO-CHA CALLS US.
OH, I CAN'T DO THAT EITHER.
SHE'S AT A PLACE WHERE MY VOICE DOESN'T REACH.

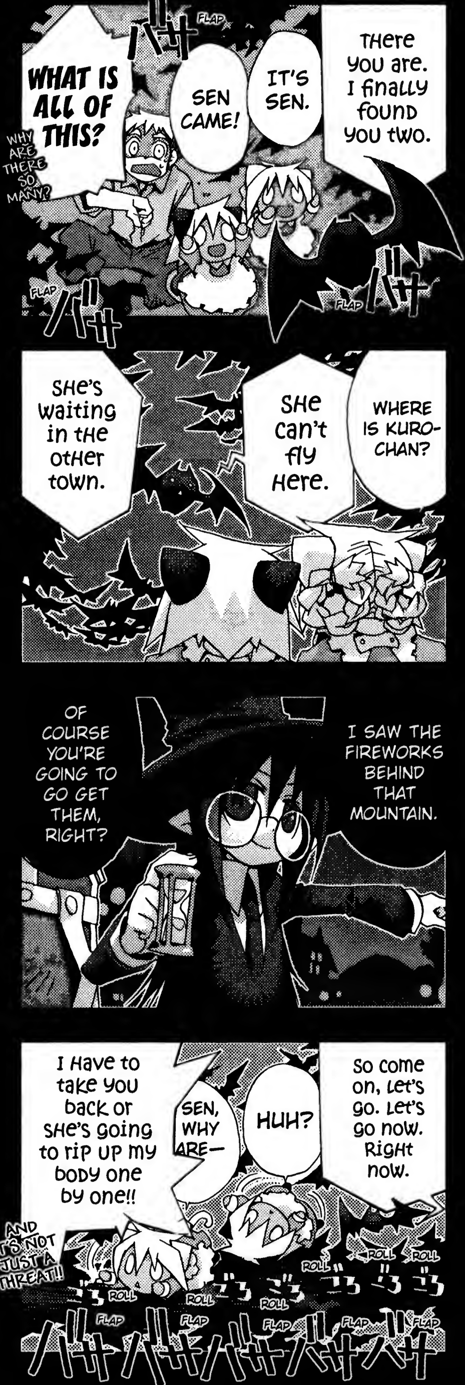

MOM, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
AREN'T YOU LEAVING FOR SERVICE TOMORROW?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME.
I'M LEAVING, AND THAT'S WHY I CAME.
THE FLOWERS YOU LIKE WERE BLOOMING TOO.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WONDER IF I HAVE A VASE.
WELL, I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO GIVE YOU TOO.
WHAT'S THIS OLD PICTURE?
IT'S ALL WORN OUT.
IT'S A PICTURE OF WHEN I WAS THE PRETTIEST.
TAKE IT AS A LUCKY CHARM.
YOUR FATHER KEPT IT UNTIL THE END TOO.
SO WE WOULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
HEY.
I THOUGHT DAD DIED IN THE WAR.
WOULDN'T IT BE BAD LUCK?
BUT IT'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU HERE.
IT'S ONLY 12 MONTHS.
I'LL BE BACK WHEN THIS FLOWER BLOOMS AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEN BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK...
...I'LL FIND YOU A WIFE!
YOU NEVER HAVE GIRLS IN YOUR LIFE.
CRASH
I DON'T NEED ONE!!
AND I DON'T WANT YOU MAKING THE DECISION...
DON'T WORRY. I KNOW YOUR TYPE.
GIGGLE GIGGLE
I JUST...
...NEED TO FIND SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME.
RIGHT?
......
OH, IS THAT SO?

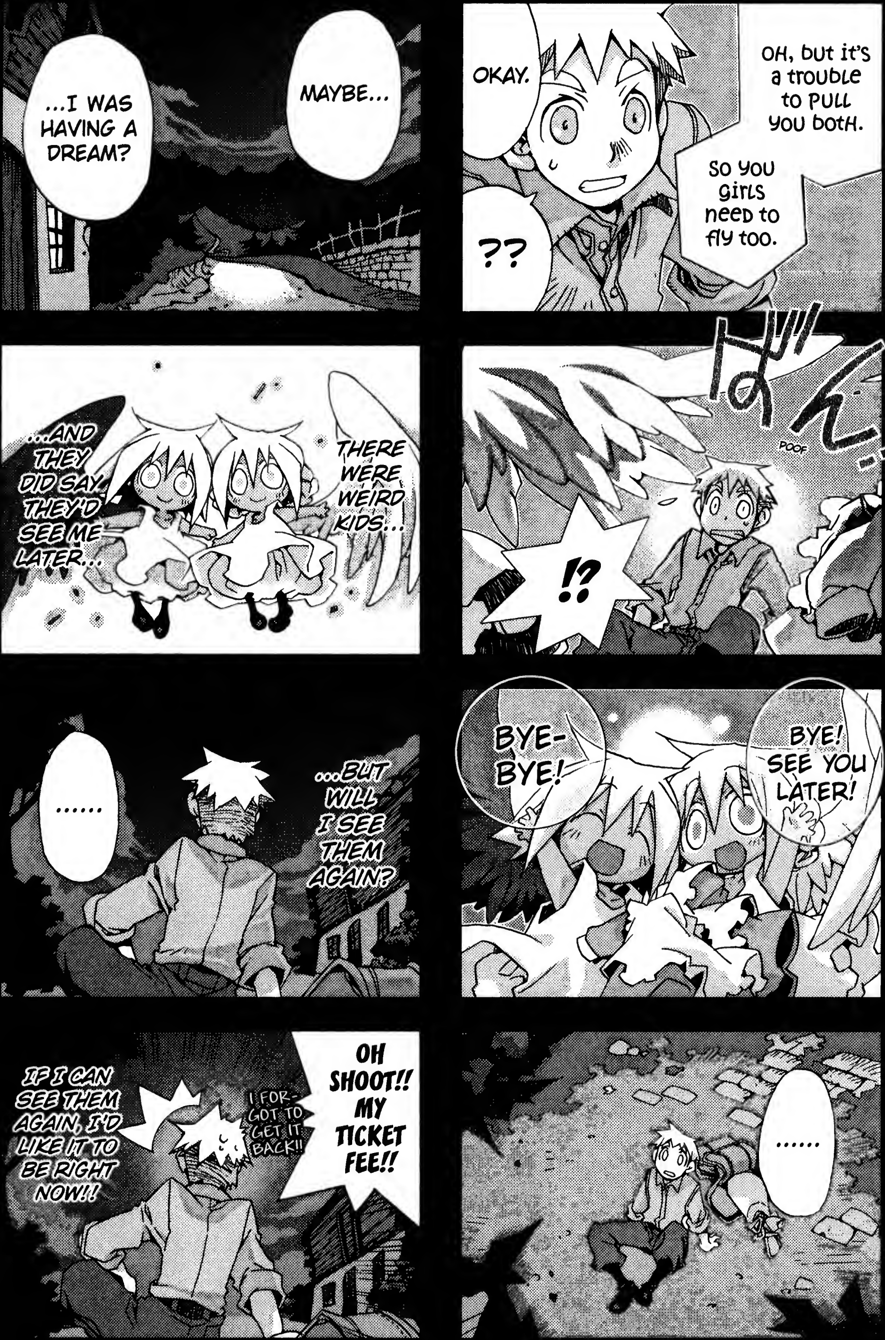

UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE NO MESSAGE FROM THE PERSON YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.
I SEE.
HEY! HEY!
HUH? WHOA!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
KURO-CHAN GAVE THIS TO US.
WE USE IT WHEN WE GET LOST.
SURPRISED
WHAT IS IT? A SIGNAL SHOT?
"FOR EMERGENCIES, USE RED. WHEN LOST, USE YELLOW. FOR OTHERS, SHOOT UP A BLUE SHOT."
?
"WHEN USING IT, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE PERSON READING THE INSTRUCTIONS LIGHT IT."
ME, EH?

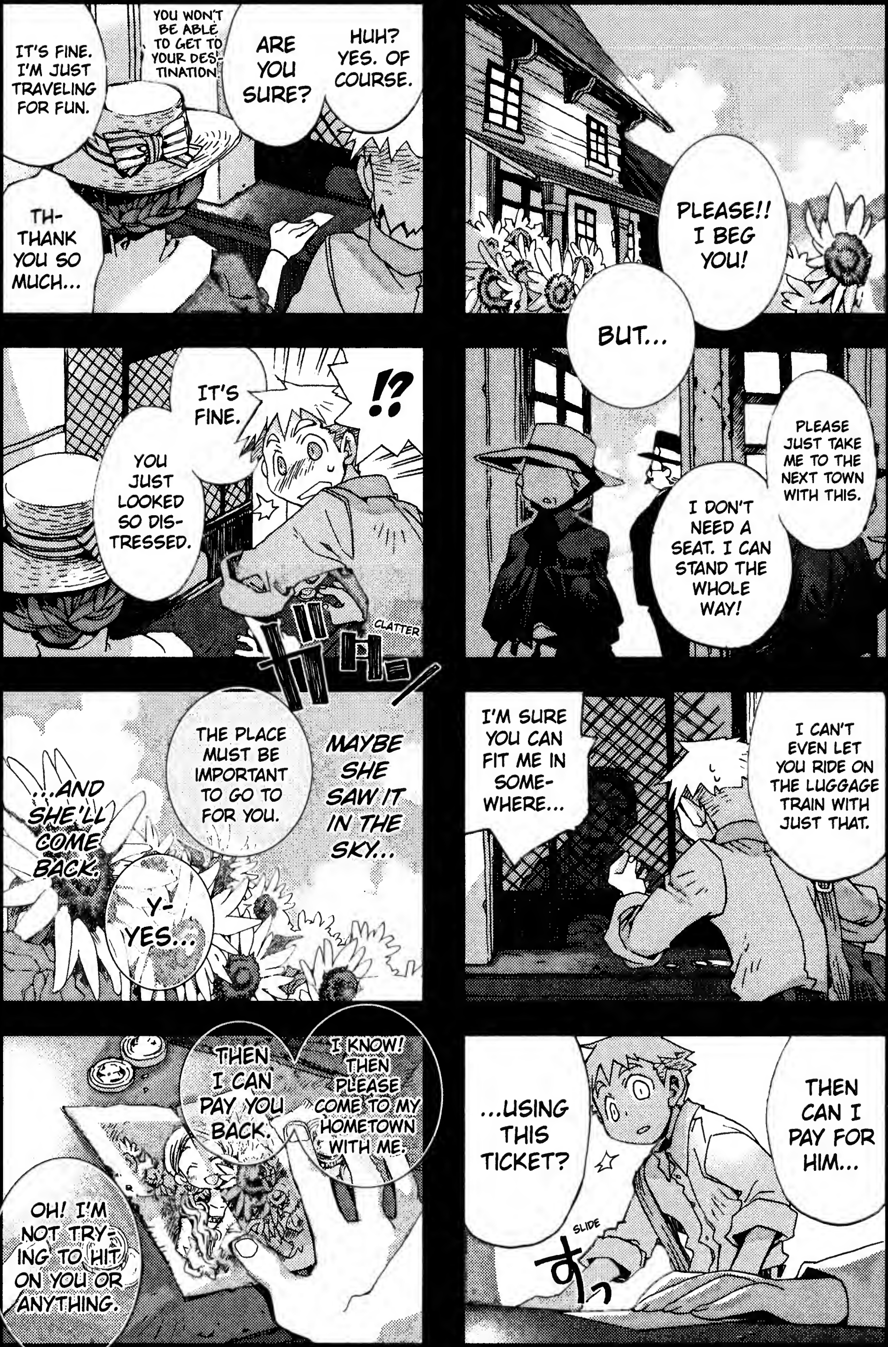

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "MAKE IT YELLOW?"
WE TURN THIS YELLOW.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW.
WE JUST NEED TO GET THE COLOR FROM SOMETHING YELLOW.
RIGHT.
??
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YELLOW?
YELLOW. YELLOW.
HUH? UM, LET'S SEE...
HOW ABOUT THOSE?

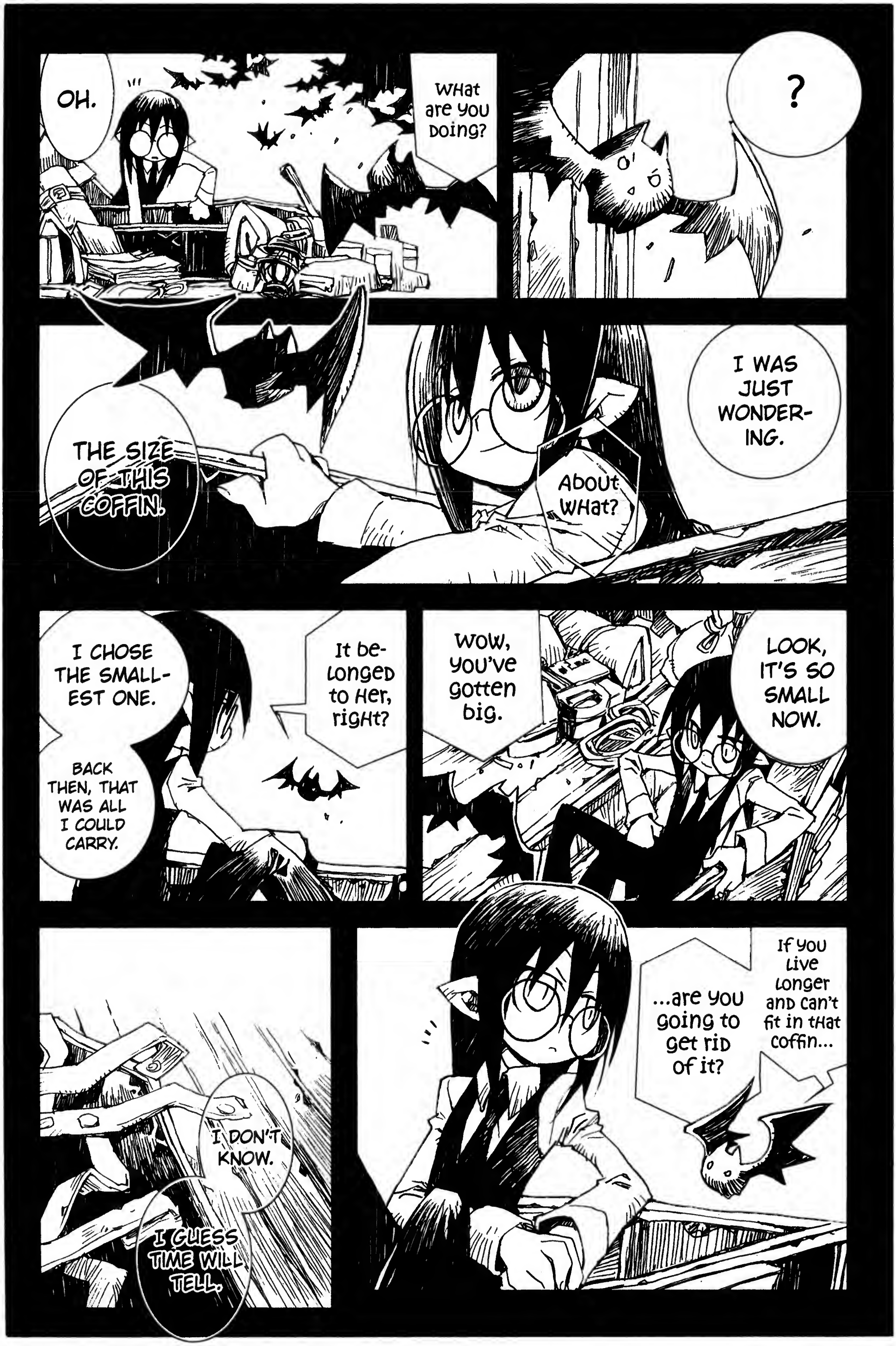

OKAY.
HERE GOES THE FIRST SHOT.
PEUUUUW
WHAT WAS THAT!?
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
HAHA. DON'T WORRY.
LOOK AT THE SKY.
IT'S THE SOUND OF THE FLOWER BLOOMING IN THE SKY.
BANG
WOULD THEY FIND US?
YEAH, I'M SURE THE TRAVELER NOTICED THAT.
HUH? YOU HAVE ANOTHER GUARDIAN?
THAT BAT?
NOT JUST KURO-CHAN.
THERE'S ONE MORE.
NOT FOR US.
THE PERSON YOU WERE LOOKING FOR.
SHE'S IN THE SKY, RIGHT?
SHE'S LOST IN THE SKY, RIGHT?

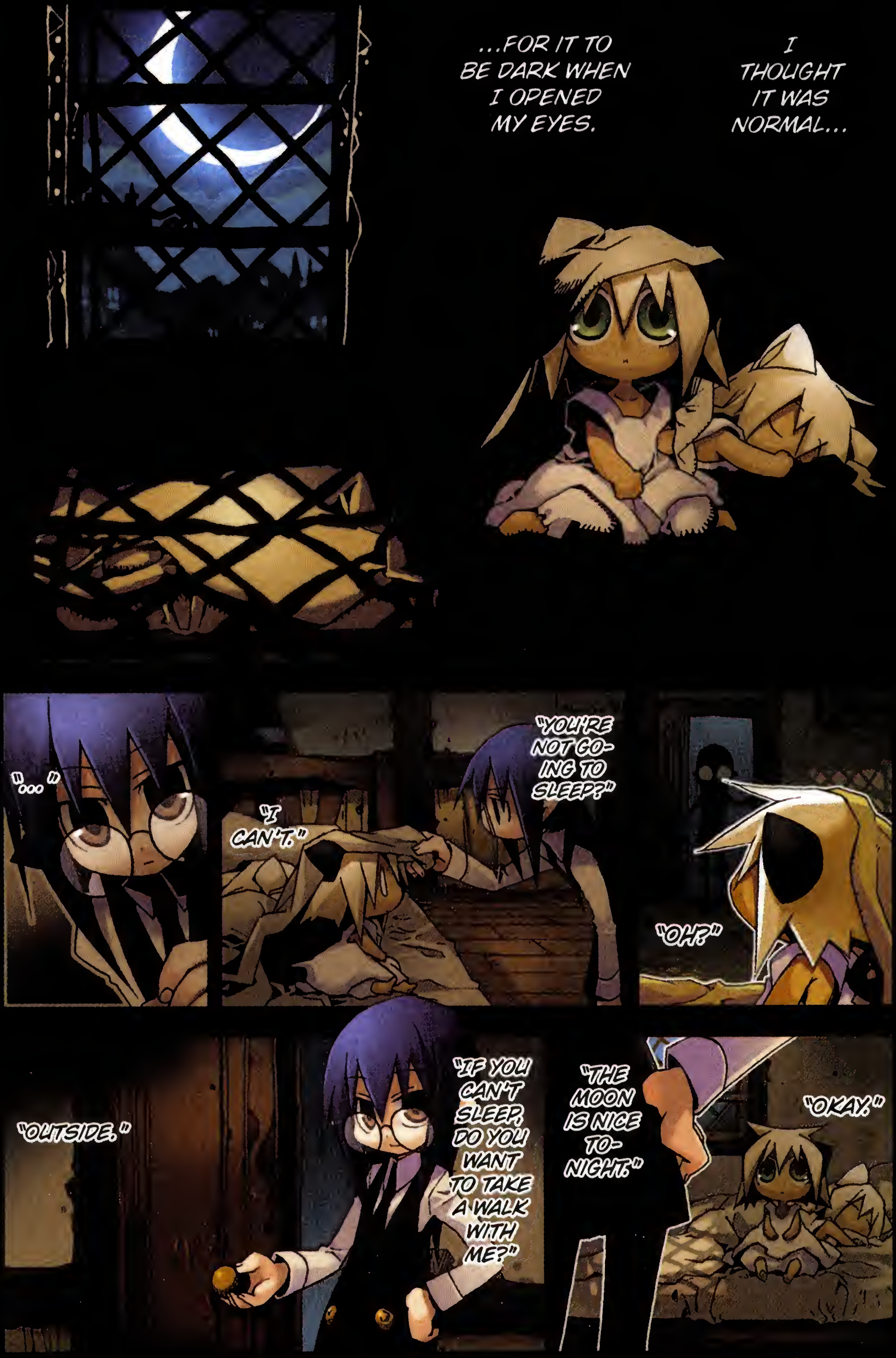

IF SHE SEES THIS IN THE SKY...
...SHE SHOULD COME BACK TO YOU.
THAT'S TRUE.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
RIGHT?
OH!
SOME-THING'S COMING FROM THE SKY.
HUH!? IT CAN'T BE...
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP

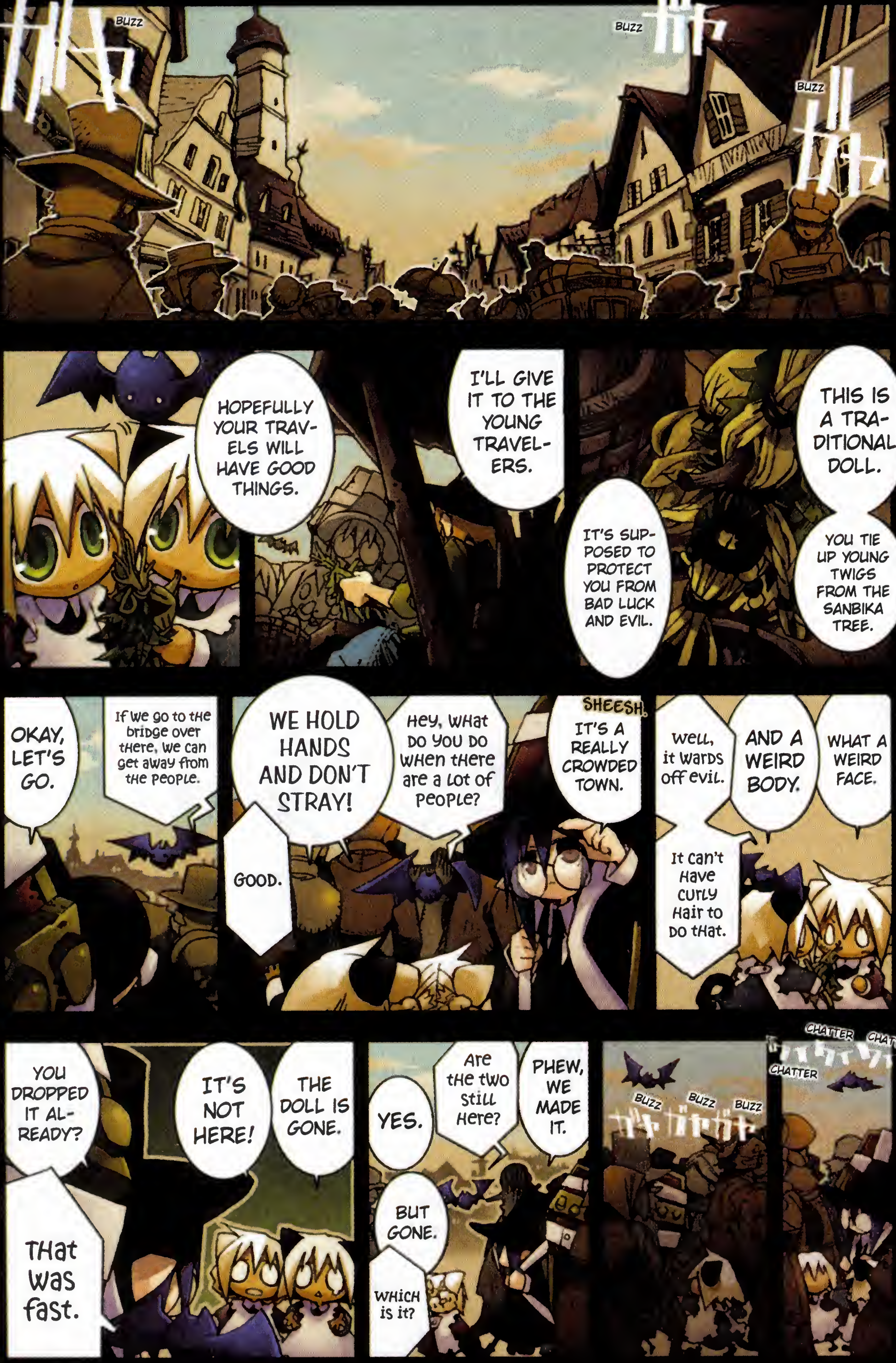

There you are. I finally found you two.
IT'S SEN.
SEN CAME!
WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY?
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
WHERE IS KURO-CHAN?
She can't fly here.
She's waiting in the other town.
I SAW THE FIREWORKS BEHIND THAT MOUNTAIN.
OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO GO GET THEM, RIGHT?
So come on, let's go. Let's go now. Right now.
HUH?
SEN, WHY ARE—
I Have to take you back or she's going to rip up my body one by one!!
AND IT'S NOT JUST A THREAT!!
ごろ ROLL
ごろ ROLL
ごろ ROLL
ごろ ROLL
ごろ ROLL
ごろ ROLL
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP
バサ FLAP

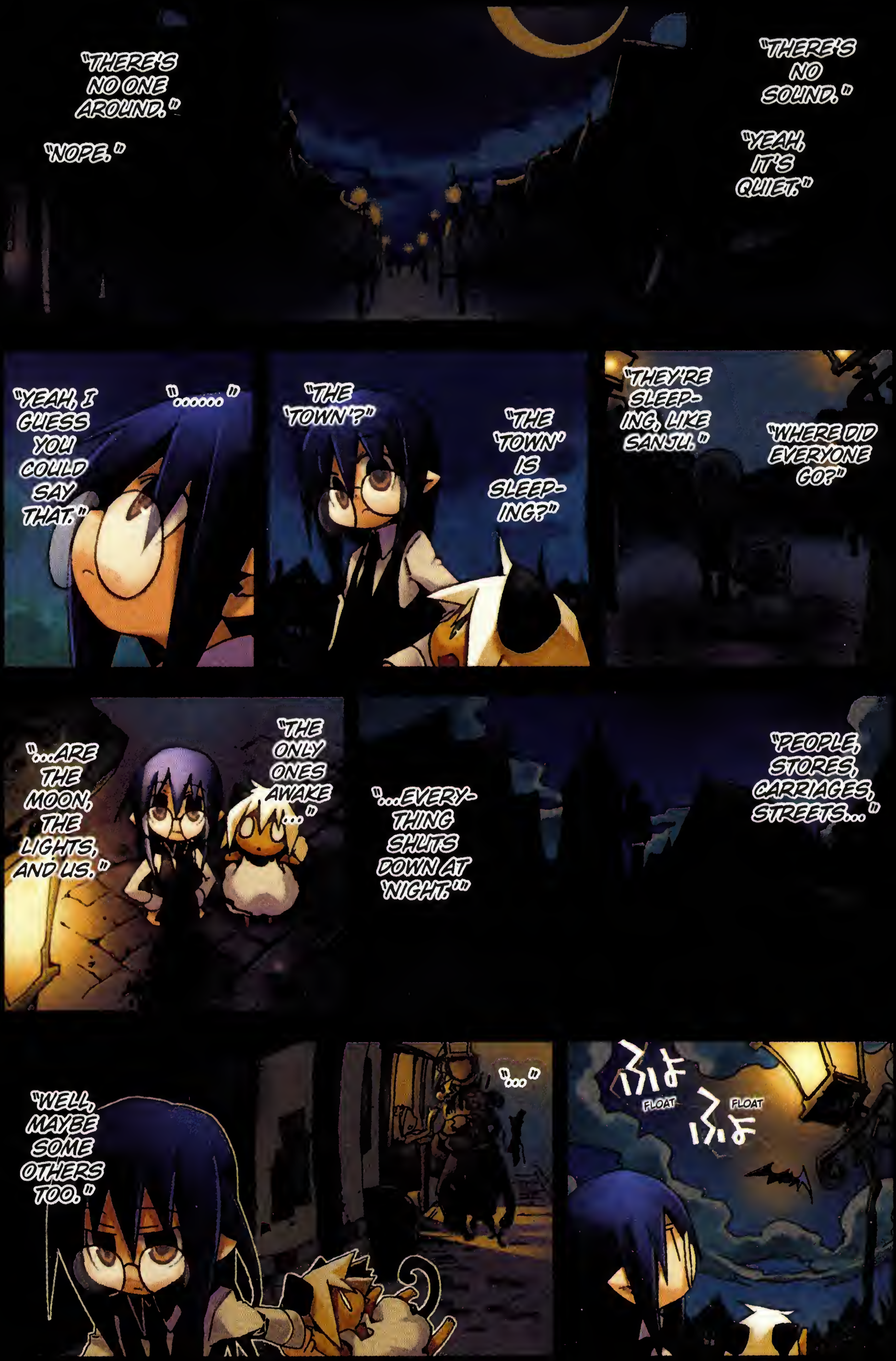

OKAY.
OH, but it's a trouble to PULL you both.
So you girls need to fly too.
??
POOF
!?
BYE! SEE YOU LATER!
BYE-BYE!
......
...I WAS HAVING A DREAM?
MAYBE...
THERE WERE WEIRD KIDS...
...AND THEY DID SAY THEY'D SEE ME LATER...
......
...BUT WILL I SEE THEM AGAIN?
OH SHOOT!! MY TICKET FEE!!
I FORGOT TO GET IT BACK!!
IF I CAN SEE THEM AGAIN, I'D LIKE IT TO BE RIGHT NOW!!

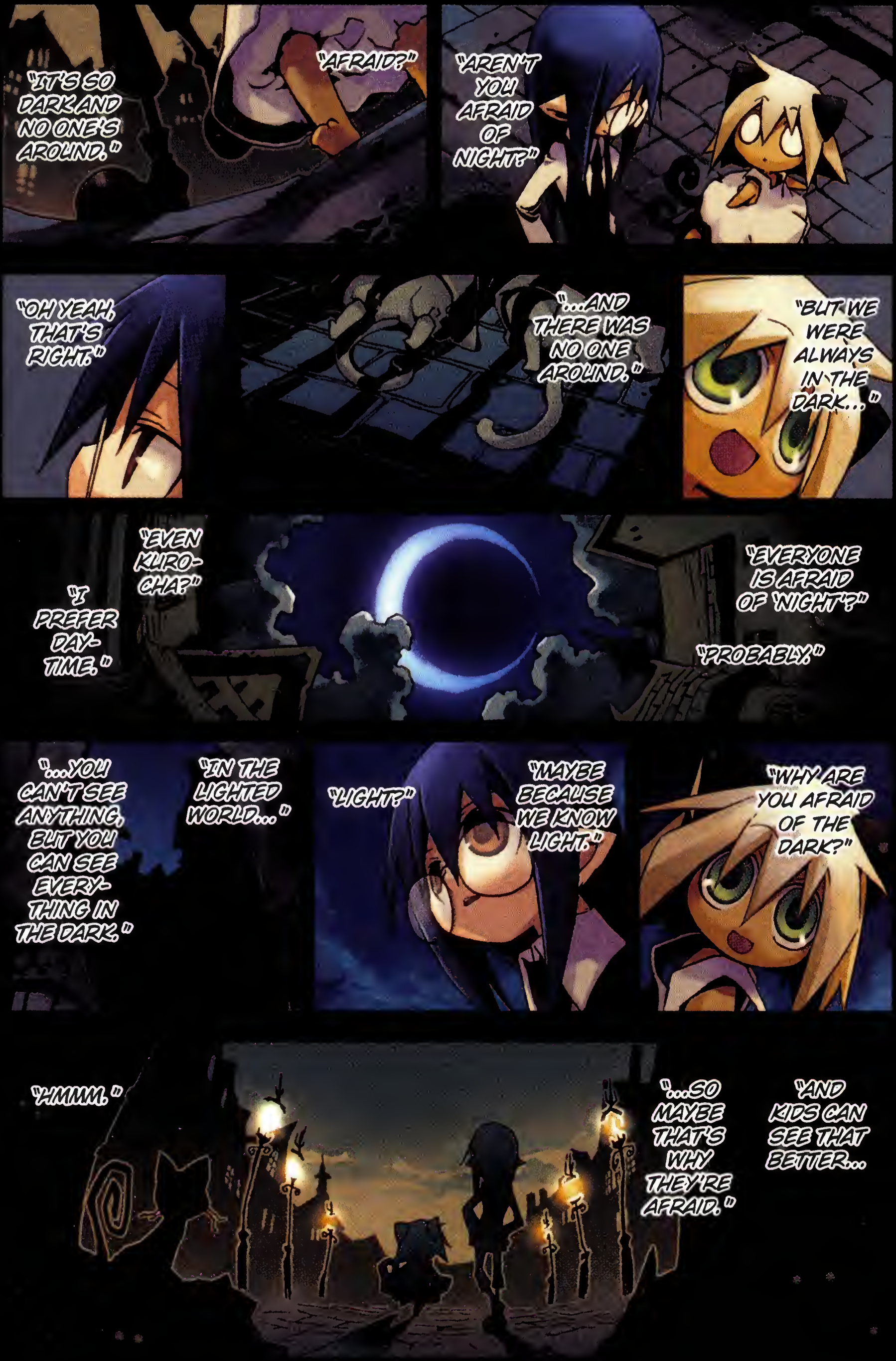

PLEASE!! I BEG YOU!
BUT...
PLEASE JUST TAKE ME TO THE NEXT TOWN WITH THIS.
I DON'T NEED A SEAT. I CAN STAND THE WHOLE WAY!
I CAN'T EVEN LET YOU RIDE ON THE LUGGAGE TRAIN WITH JUST THAT.
I'M SURE YOU CAN FIT ME IN SOME-WHERE...
THEN CAN I PAY FOR HIM...
...USING THIS TICKET?
SLIDE
すっ
HUH? YES. OF COURSE.
ARE YOU SURE?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO YOUR DESTINATION!
IT'S FINE. I'M JUST TRAVELING FOR FUN.
TH- THANK YOU SO MUCH...
!?
IT'S FINE.
YOU JUST LOOKED SO DISTRESSED.
CLATTER
MAYBE SHE SAW IT IN THE SKY...
THE PLACE MUST BE IMPORTANT TO GO TO FOR YOU.
...AND SHE'LL COME BACK.
Y- YES...
I KNOW! THEN PLEASE COME TO MY HOMETOWN WITH ME.
THEN I CAN PAY YOU BACK.
OH! I'M NOT TRYING TO HIT ON YOU OR ANYTHING.

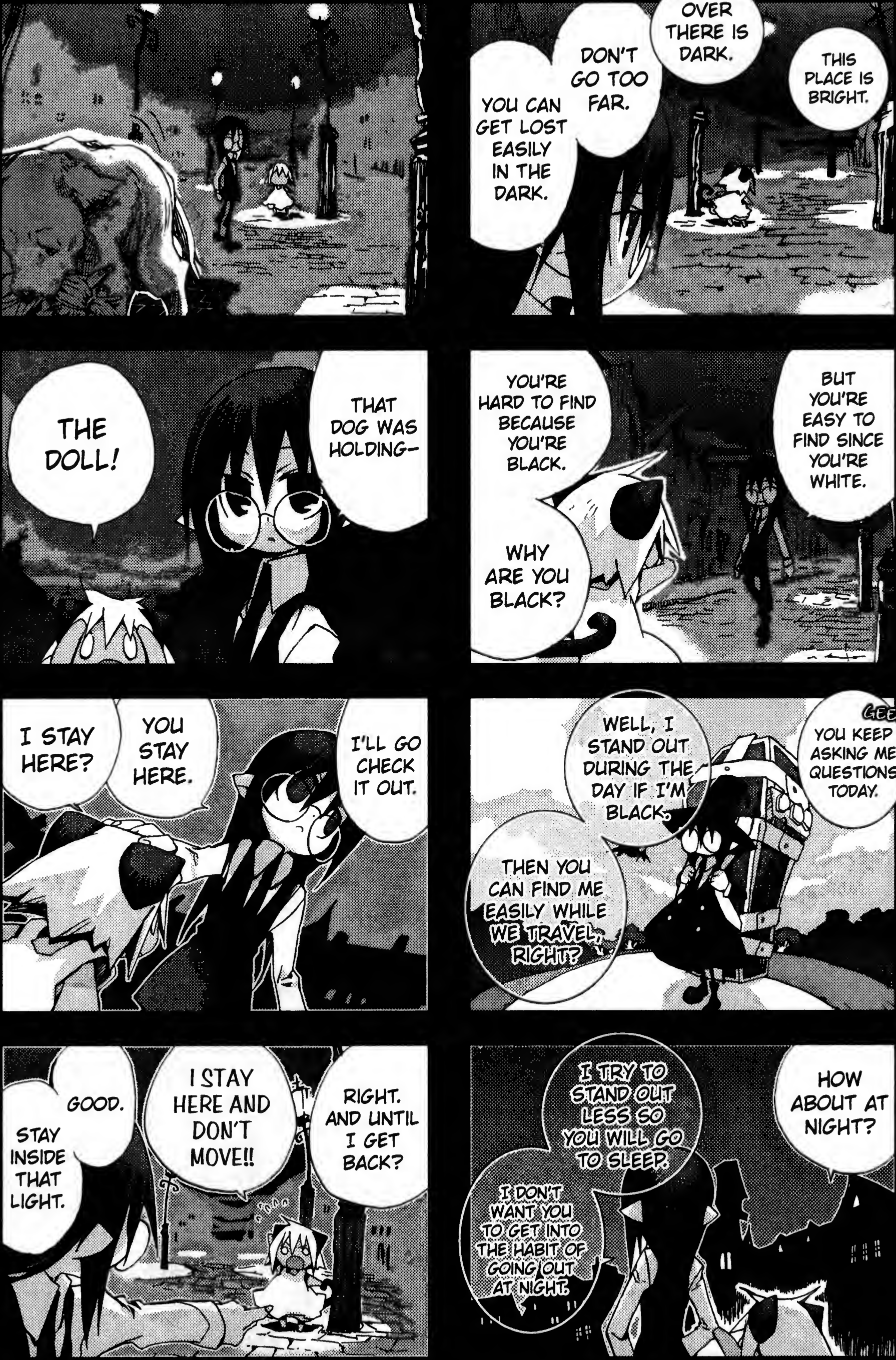

?
What are you doing?
OH.
I WAS JUST WONDERING.
About what?
THE SIZE OF THIS COFFIN.
LOOK, IT'S SO SMALL NOW.
Wow, you've gotten big.
It belonged to her, right?
I CHOSE THE SMALLEST ONE.
BACK THEN, THAT WAS ALL I COULD CARRY.
If you live longer and can't fit in that coffin...
...are you going to get rid of it?
I DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS TIME WILL TELL.

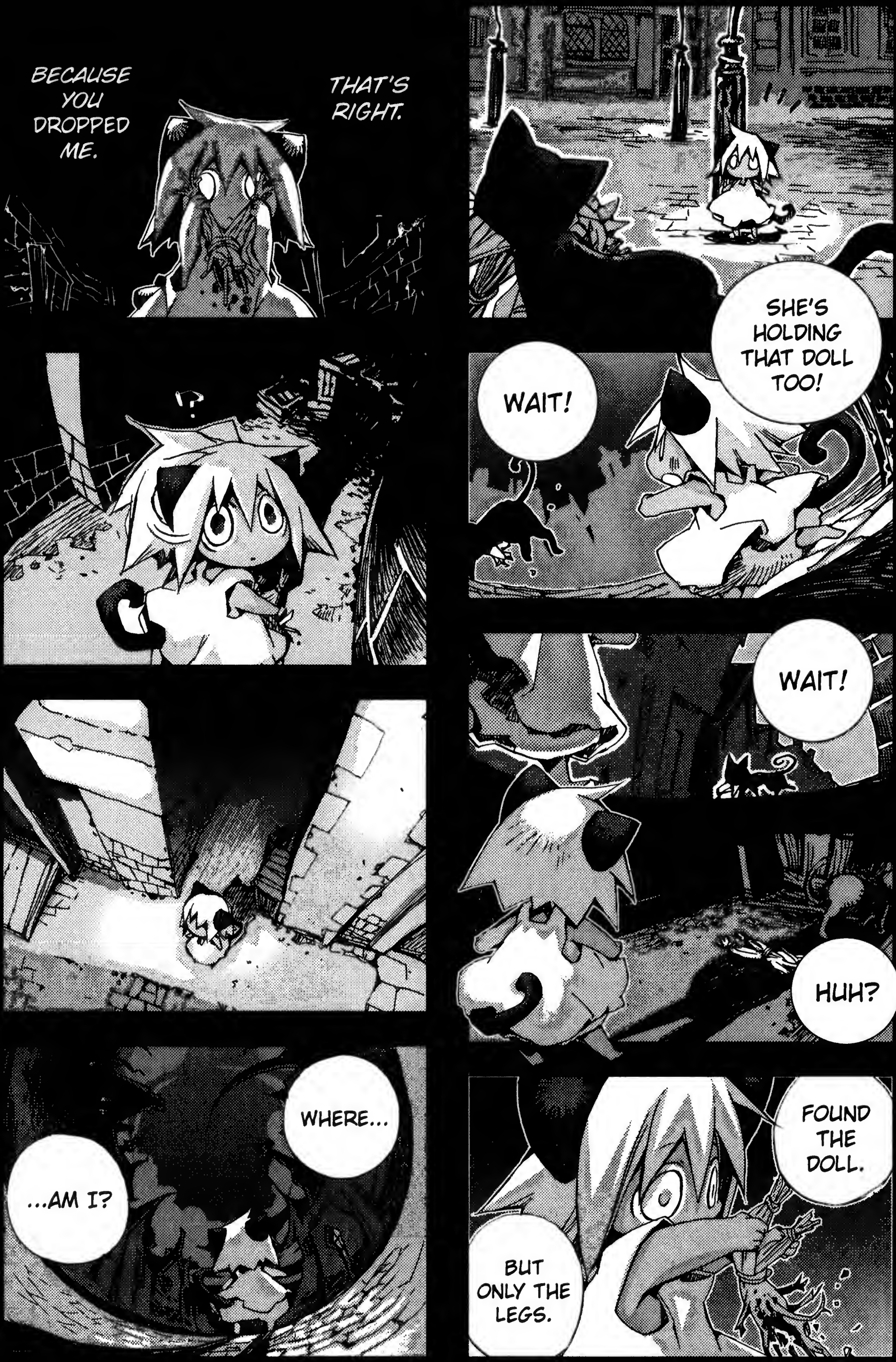

I THOUGHT IT WAS NORMAL...
...FOR IT TO BE DARK WHEN I OPENED MY EYES.
"OH?"
"YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SLEEP?"
"I CAN'T."
"..."
"OKAY."
"THE MOON IS NICE TONIGHT."
"IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP, DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A WALK WITH ME?"
"OUTSIDE."

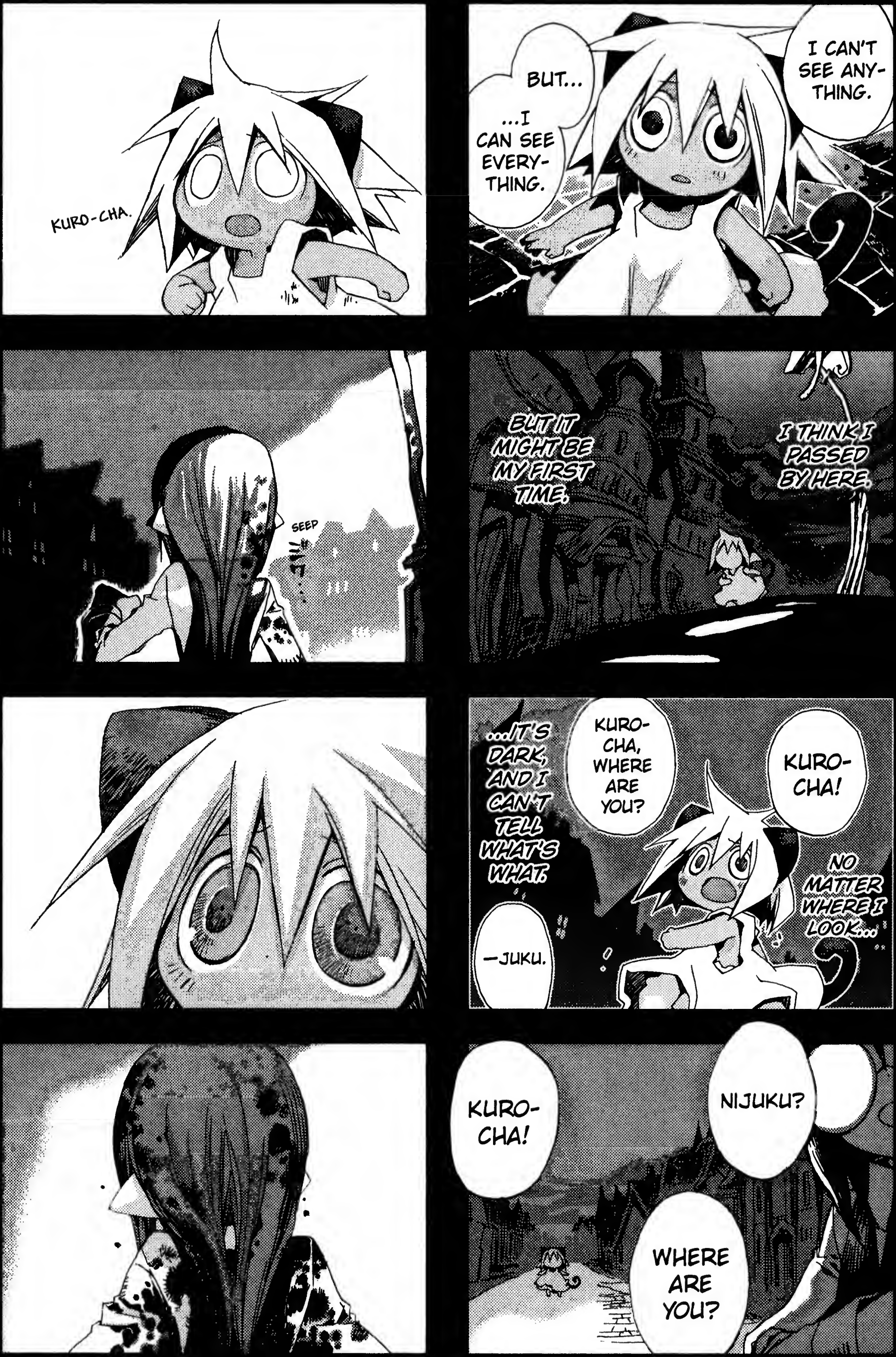

Buzz
Buzz
Buzz
THIS IS A TRADITIONAL DOLL.
YOU TIE UP YOUNG TWIGS FROM THE SANBIKA TREE.
I'LL GIVE IT TO THE YOUNG TRAVELERS.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO PROTECT YOU FROM BAD LUCK AND EVIL.
HOPEFULLY YOUR TRAVELS WILL HAVE GOOD THINGS.
WHAT A WEIRD FACE.
AND A WEIRD BODY.
Well, it wards off evil.
It can't have curly hair to do that.
SHEESH.
IT'S A REALLY CROWDED TOWN.
Hey, what do you do when there are a lot of people?
WE HOLD HANDS AND DON'T STRAY!
GOOD.
If we go to the bridge over there, we can get away from the people.
OKAY, LET'S GO.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
Buzz
Buzz
Buzz
PHEW, WE MADE IT.
Are the two still here?
YES.
BUT GONE.
Which is it?
THE DOLL IS GONE.
IT'S NOT HERE!
YOU DROPPED IT ALREADY?
That was fast.

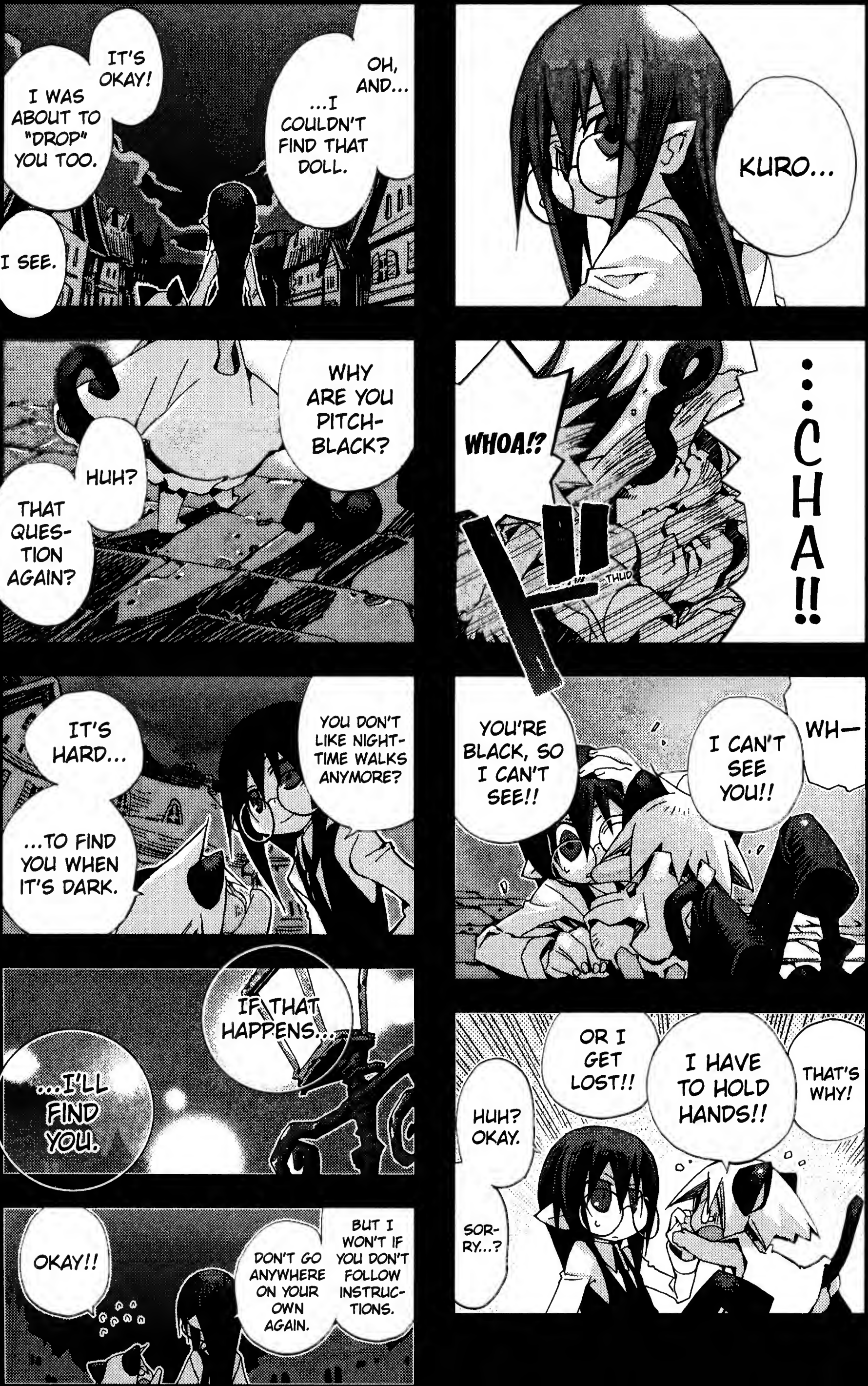

"THERE'S NO SOUND."
"YEAH, IT'S QUIET."
"THERE'S NO ONE AROUND."
"NOPE."
"WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?"
"THEY'RE SLEEPING, LIKE SANJU."
"THE 'TOWN' IS SLEEPING?"
"THE 'TOWN'?"
"......"
"YEAH, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT."
"PEOPLE, STORES, CARRIAGES, STREETS..."
"...EVERYTHING SHUTS DOWN AT NIGHT.'"
"THE ONLY ONES AWAKE..."
"...ARE THE MOON, THE LIGHTS, AND US."
ふよ
FLOAT
ふよ
FLOAT
"..."
"WELL, MAYBE SOME OTHERS TOO."

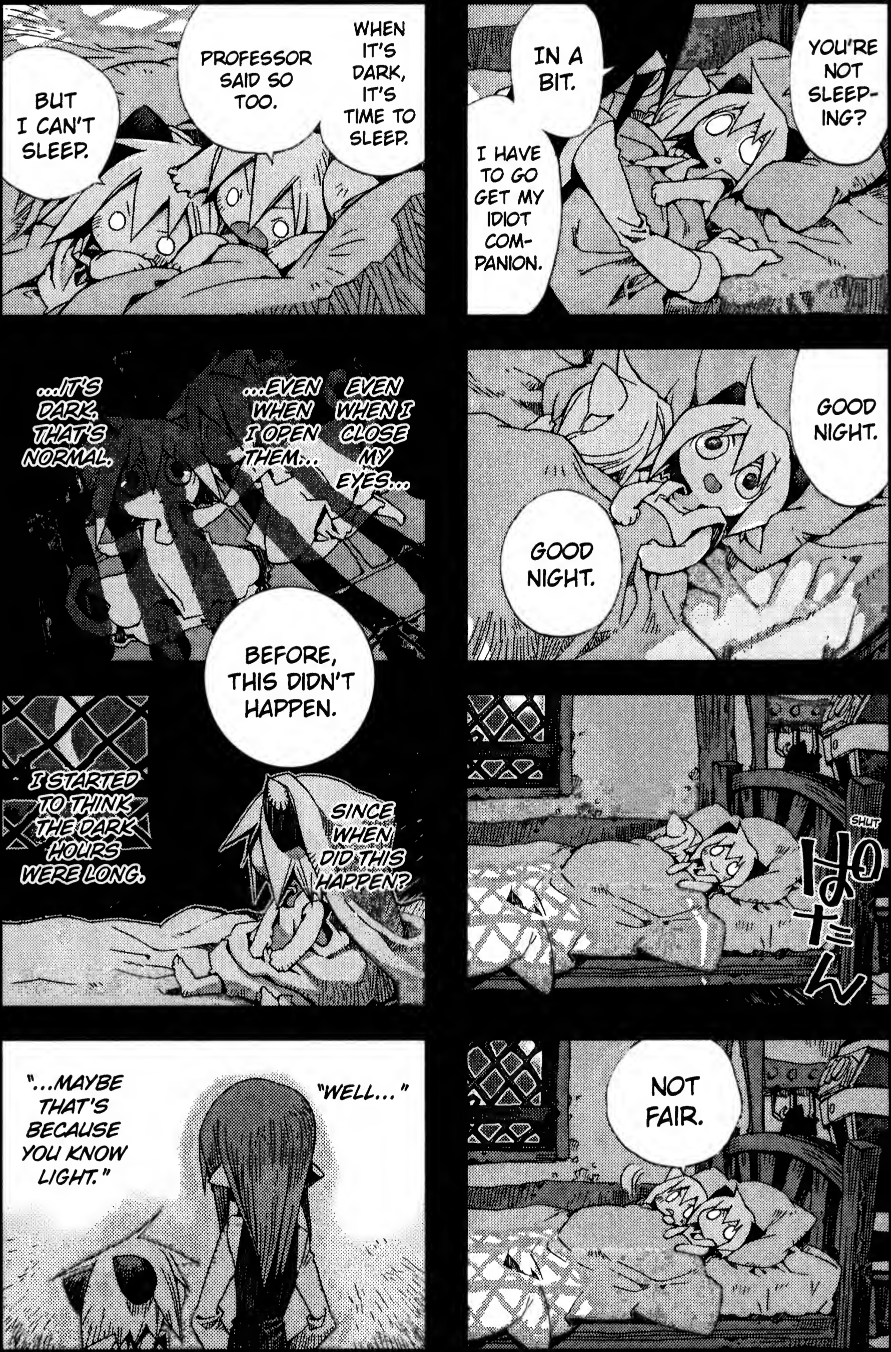

"IT'S SO DARK AND NO ONE'S AROUND."
"AFRAID?"
"AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF NIGHT?"
"OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT."
"...AND THERE WAS NO ONE AROUND."
"BUT WE WERE ALWAYS IN THE DARK..."
"EVEN KURO-CHA?"
"I PREFER DAY-TIME."
"EVERYONE IS AFRAID OF 'NIGHT'?"
"PROBABLY."
"...YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING, BUT YOU CAN SEE EVERY-THING IN THE DARK."
"IN THE LIGHTED WORLD..."
"LIGHT?"
"MAYBE BECAUSE WE KNOW LIGHT."
"WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK?"
"HMMM."
"...SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY'RE AFRAID."
"AND KIDS CAN SEE THAT BETTER...

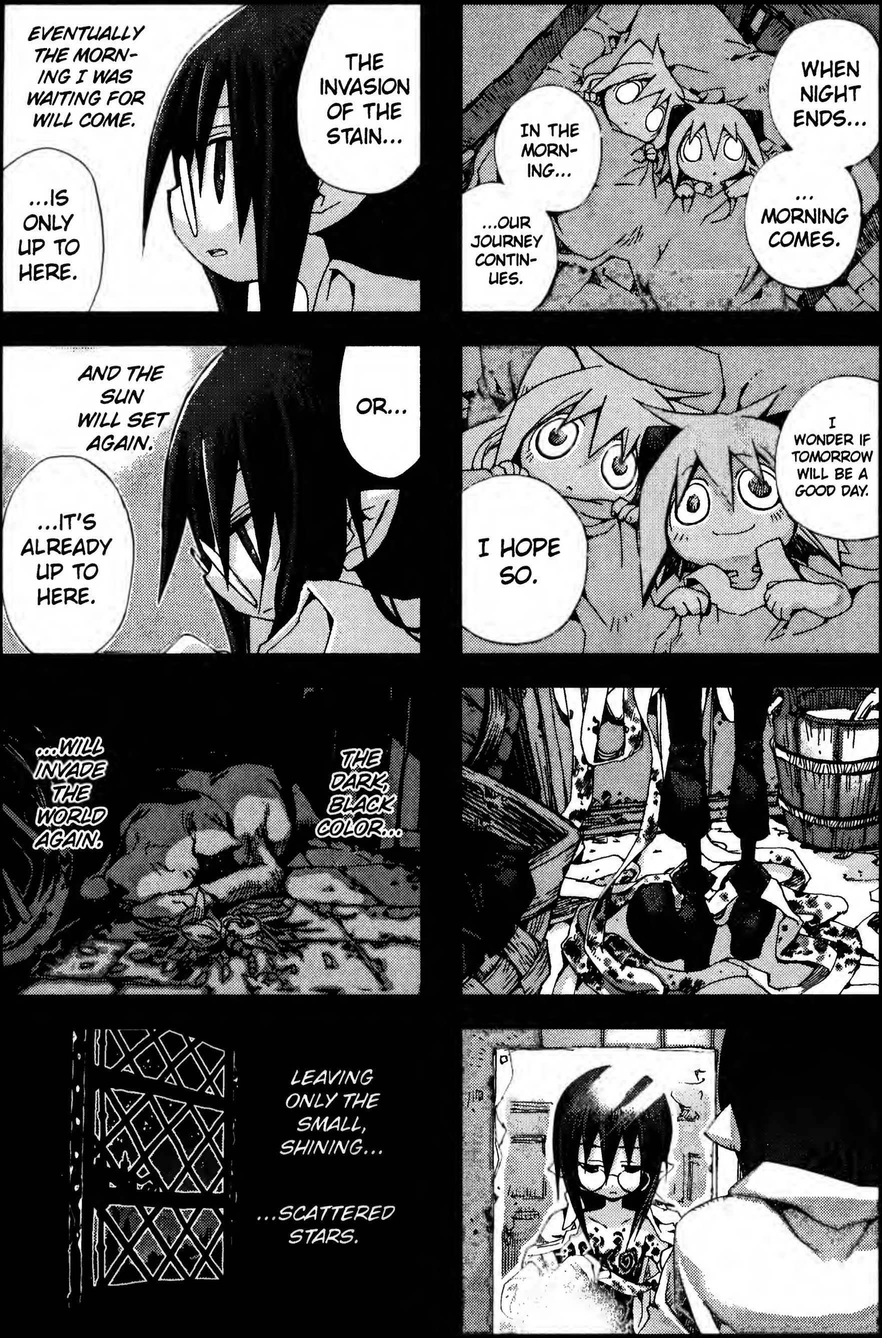

THIS PLACE IS BRIGHT.
OVER THERE IS DARK.
DON'T GO TOO FAR.
YOU CAN GET LOST EASILY IN THE DARK.
BUT YOU'RE EASY TO FIND SINCE YOU'RE WHITE.
YOU'RE HARD TO FIND BECAUSE YOU'RE BLACK.
WHY ARE YOU BLACK?
THAT DOG WAS HOLDING-
THE DOLL!
GEEZ, YOU KEEP ASKING ME QUESTIONS TODAY.
WELL, I STAND OUT DURING THE DAY IF I'M BLACK.
THEN YOU CAN FIND ME EASILY WHILE WE TRAVEL, RIGHT?
I'LL GO CHECK IT OUT.
YOU STAY HERE.
I STAY HERE?
HOW ABOUT AT NIGHT?
I TRY TO STAND OUT LESS SO YOU WILL GO TO SLEEP.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET INTO THE HABIT OF GOING OUT AT NIGHT.
RIGHT. AND UNTIL I GET BACK?
I STAY HERE AND DON'T MOVE!!
GOOD.
STAY INSIDE THAT LIGHT.

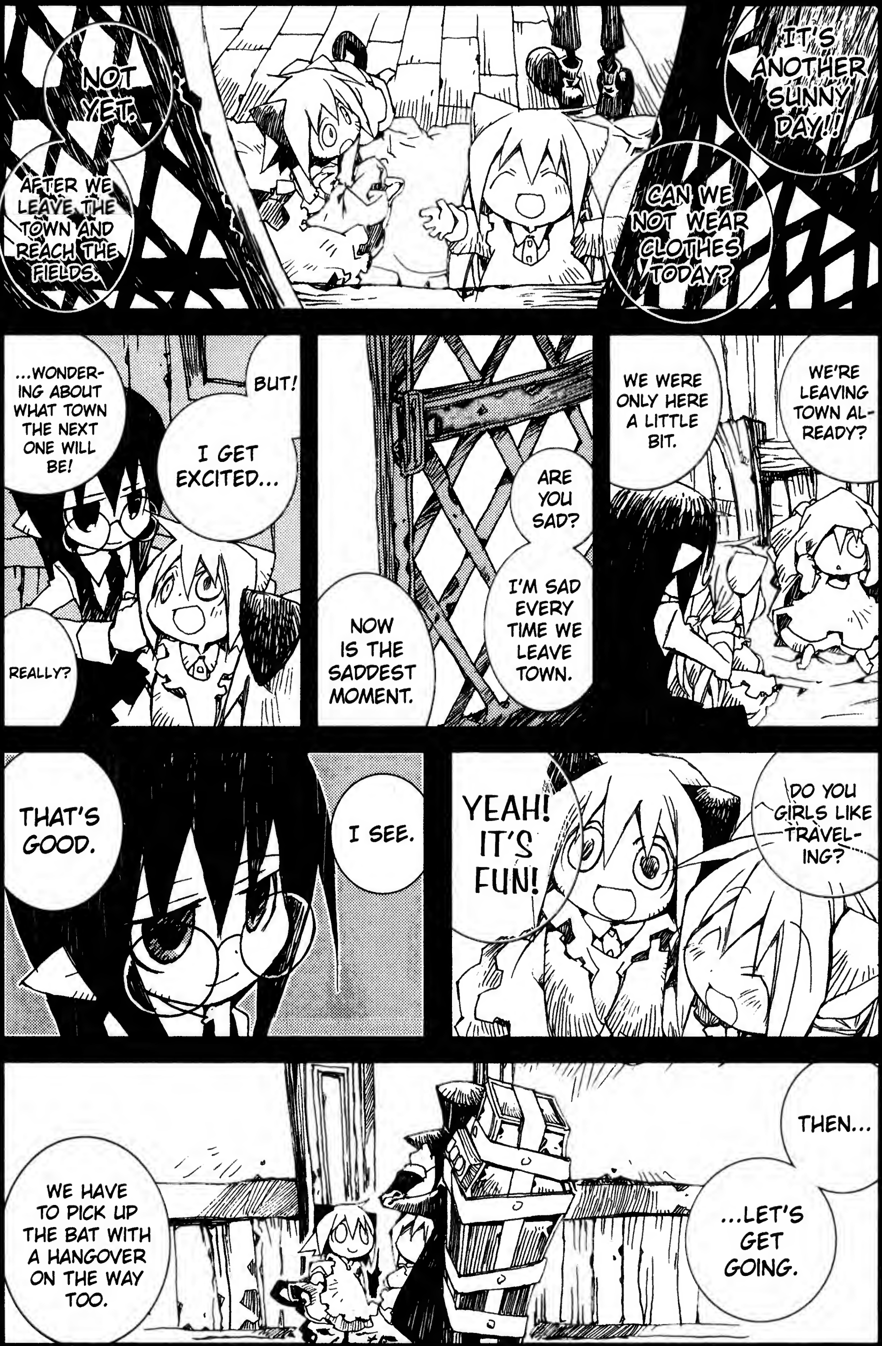

BECAUSE YOU DROPPED ME.
THAT'S RIGHT.
!?
WAIT!
SHE'S HOLDING THAT DOLL TOO!
WAIT!
HUH?
WHERE...
...AM I?
FOUND THE DOLL.
BUT ONLY THE LEGS.

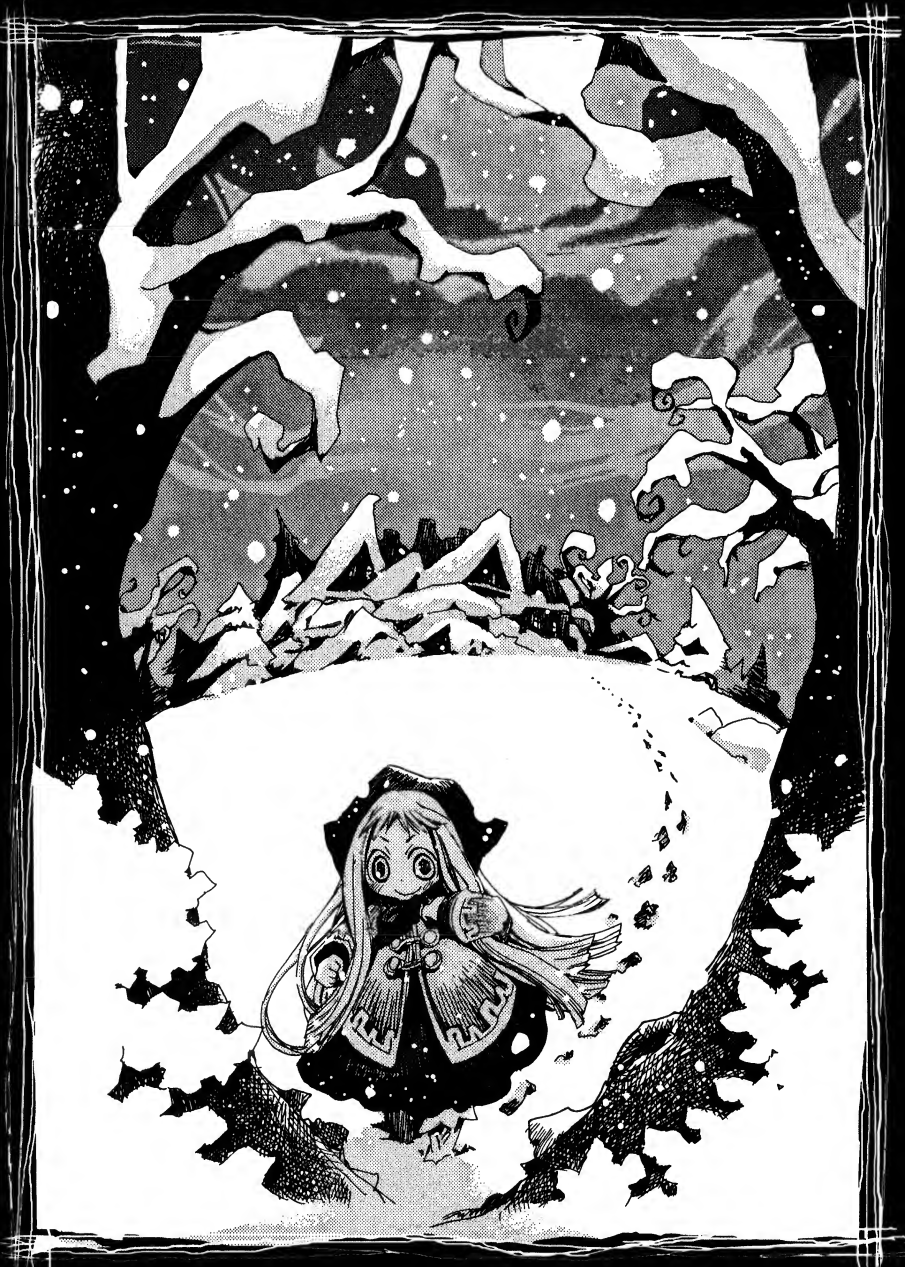

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
BUT...
...I CAN SEE EVERYTHING.
I THINK I PASSED BY HERE.
BUT IT MIGHT BE MY FIRST TIME.
KURO-CHA!
NO MATTER WHERE I LOOK...
KURO-CHA, WHERE ARE YOU?
...IT'S DARK, AND I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S WHAT.
—JUKU.
NIJUKU?
KURO-CHA!
WHERE ARE YOU?
KURO-CHA.
SEEP


KURO...
...CHA!!
WHOA!?
THUD
WH—
I CAN'T SEE YOU!!
YOU'RE BLACK, SO I CAN'T SEE!!
THAT'S WHY!
I HAVE TO HOLD HANDS!!
OR I GET LOST!!
HUH? OKAY.
SORRY...?
OH, AND...
...I COULDN'T FIND THAT DOLL.
IT'S OKAY!
I WAS ABOUT TO "DROP" YOU TOO.
I SEE.
WHY ARE YOU PITCH-BLACK?
HUH?
THAT QUESTION AGAIN?
YOU DON'T LIKE NIGHTTIME WALKS ANYMORE?
IT'S HARD...
...TO FIND YOU WHEN IT'S DARK.
IF THAT HAPPENS...
...I'LL FIND YOU.
BUT I WON'T IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.
DON'T GO ANYWHERE ON YOUR OWN AGAIN.
OKAY!!


YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING?
IN A BIT.
I HAVE TO GO GET MY IDIOT COMPANION.
WHEN IT'S DARK, IT'S TIME TO SLEEP.
PROFESSOR SAID SO TOO.
BUT I CAN'T SLEEP.
GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
EVEN WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES...
...EVEN WHEN I OPEN THEM...
...IT'S DARK. THAT'S NORMAL.
BEFORE, THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN.
SHUT
ぱたん
SINCE WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
I STARTED TO THINK THE DARK HOURS WERE LONG.
NOT FAIR.
"WELL..."
"...MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE YOU KNOW LIGHT."

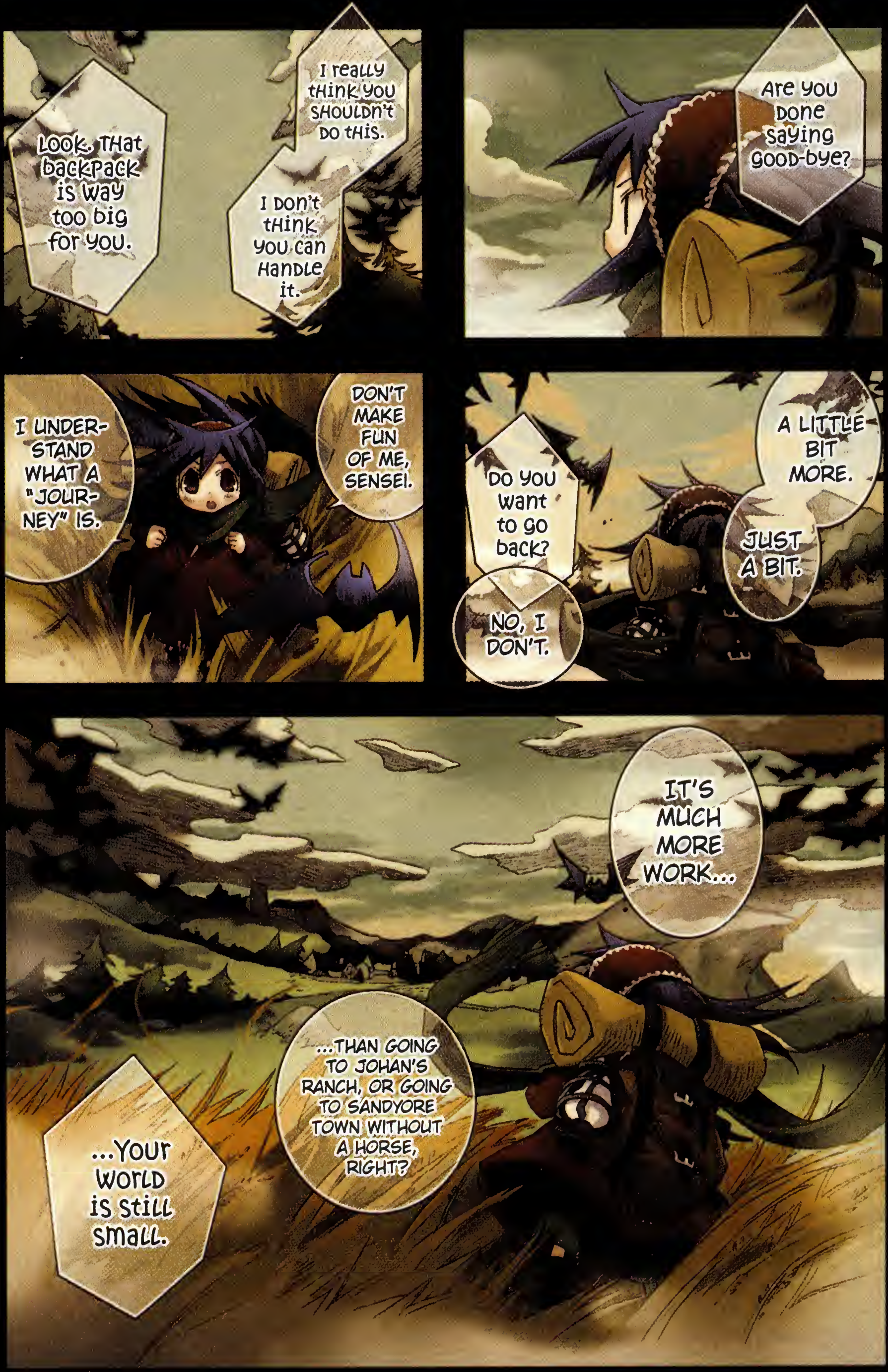

WHEN NIGHT ENDS...
IN THE MORNING...
...MORNING COMES.
...OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES.
THE INVASION OF THE STAIN...
EVENTUALLY THE MORNING I WAS WAITING FOR WILL COME.
...IS ONLY UP TO HERE.
I WONDER IF TOMORROW WILL BE A GOOD DAY.
I HOPE SO.
OR...
AND THE SUN WILL SET AGAIN.
...IT'S ALREADY UP TO HERE.
THE DARK, BLACK COLOR...
...WILL INVADE THE WORLD AGAIN.
LEAVING ONLY THE SMALL, SHINING...
...SCATTERED STARS.

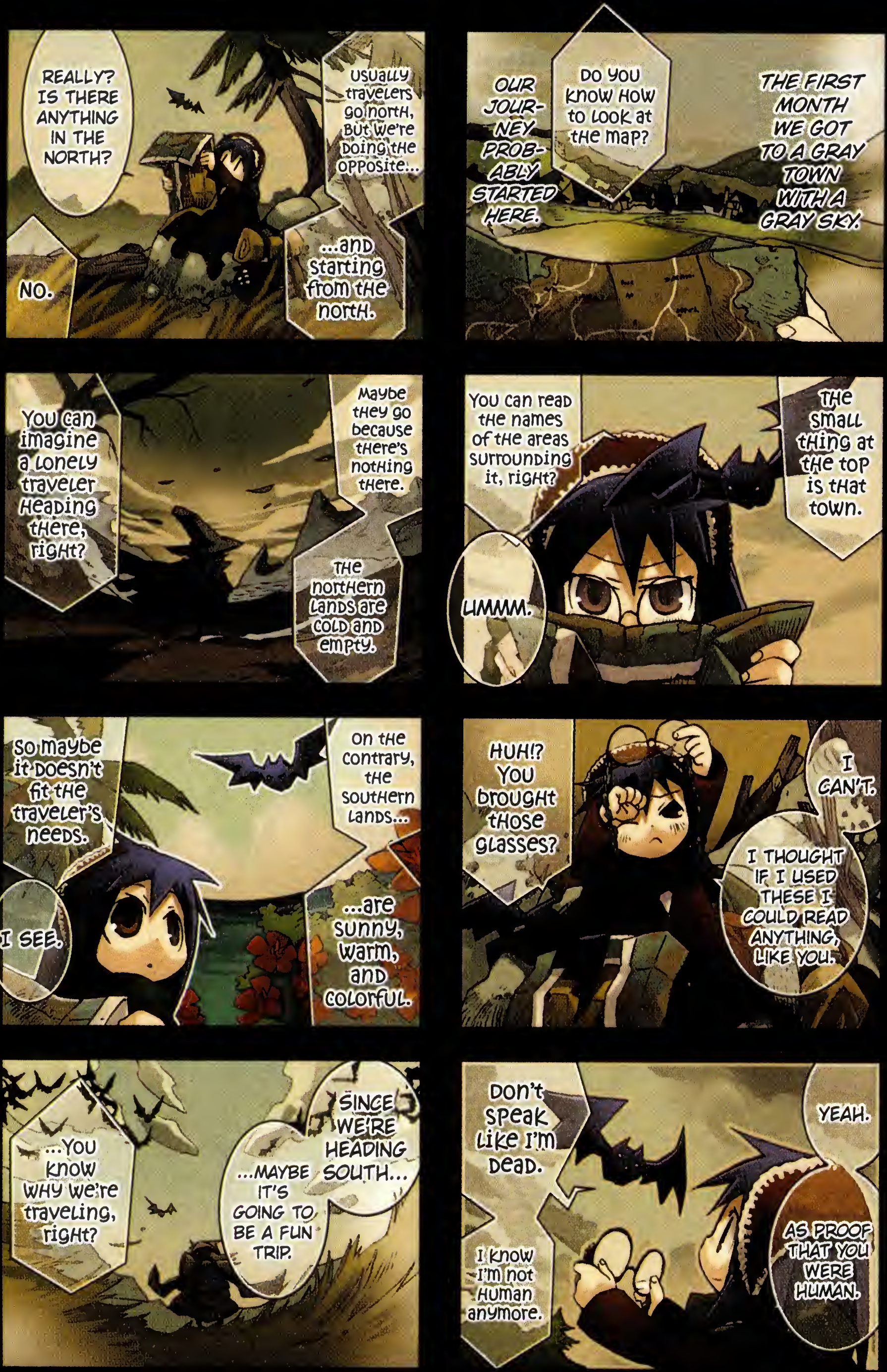

IT'S ANOTHER SUNNY DAY!!
CAN WE NOT WEAR CLOTHES TODAY?
NOT YET.
AFTER WE LEAVE THE TOWN AND REACH THE FIELDS.
WE'RE LEAVING TOWN ALREADY?
WE WERE ONLY HERE A LITTLE BIT.
ARE YOU SAD?
I'M SAD EVERY TIME WE LEAVE TOWN.
NOW IS THE SADDEST MOMENT.
BUT!
I GET EXCITED...
...WONDERING ABOUT WHAT TOWN THE NEXT ONE WILL BE!
REALLY?
DO YOU GIRLS LIKE TRAVELING?
YEAH! IT'S FUN!
I SEE.
THAT'S GOOD.
THEN...
...LET'S GET GOING.
WE HAVE TO PICK UP THE BAT WITH A HANGOVER ON THE WAY TOO.

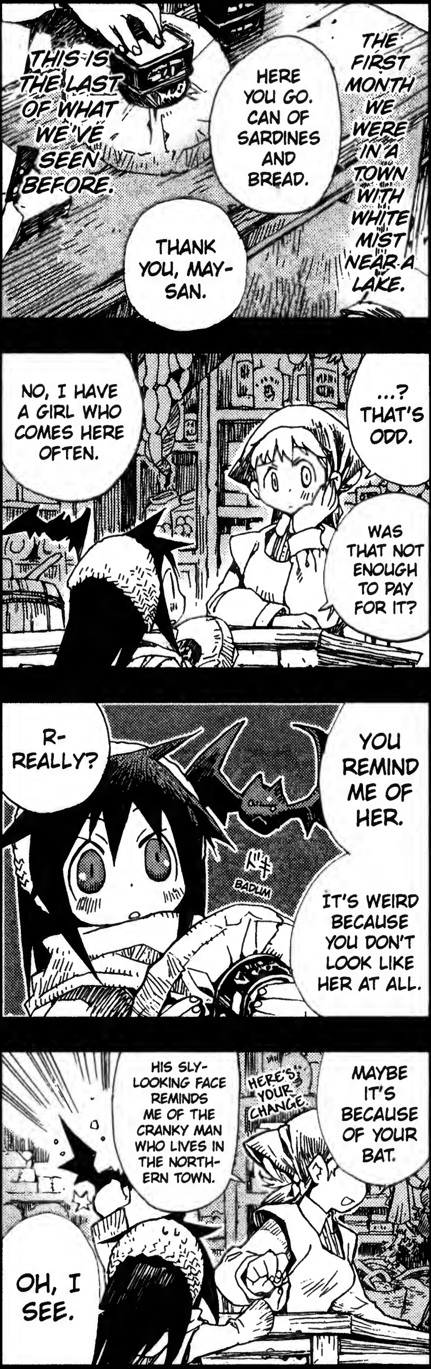


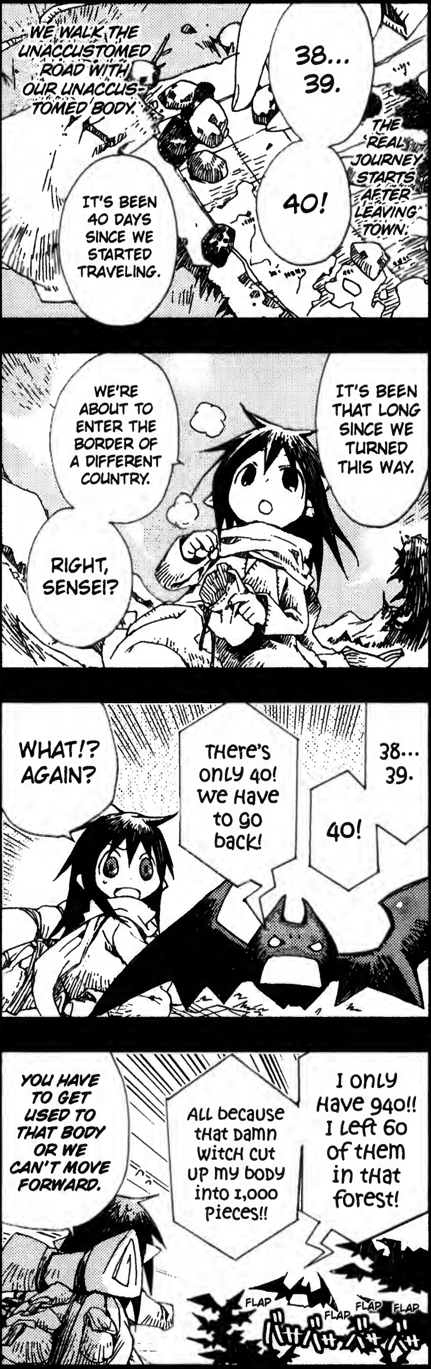
The girl snuck out of the mansion at dawn. The place was covered in snow.

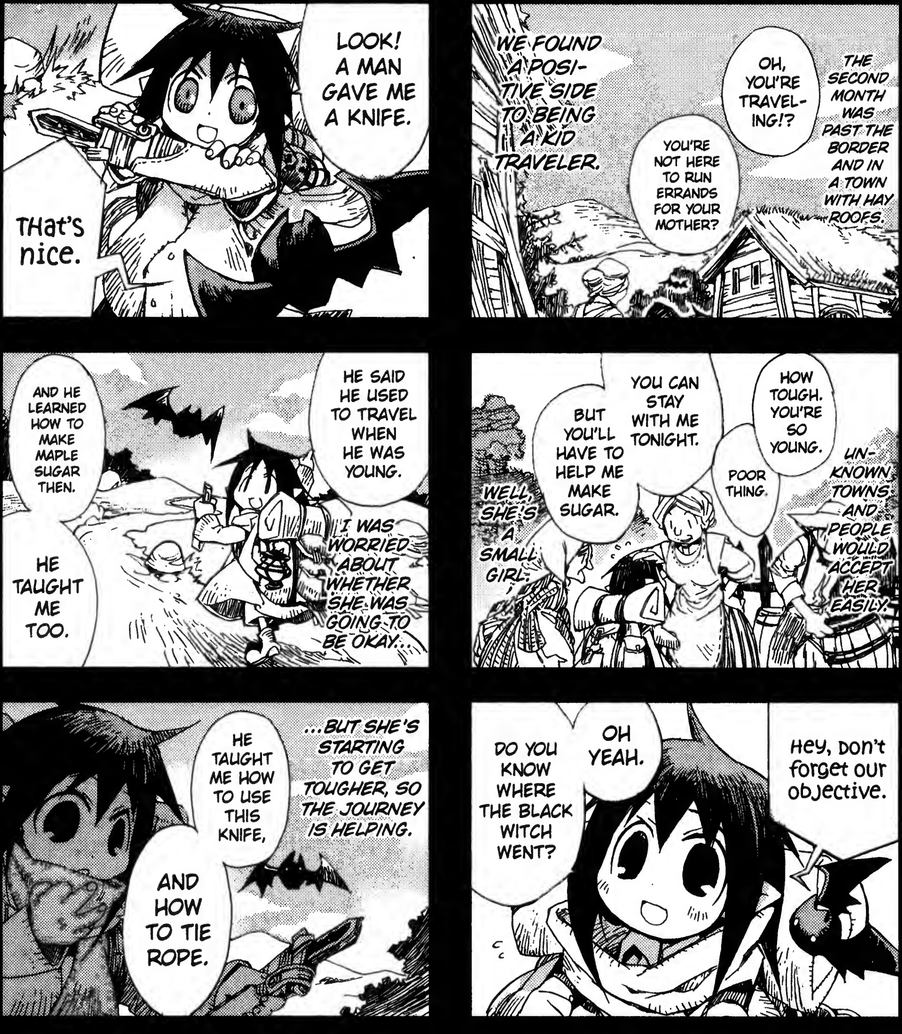
She had no idea that her small bit of curiosity and her selfishness would bring such dreadful results.

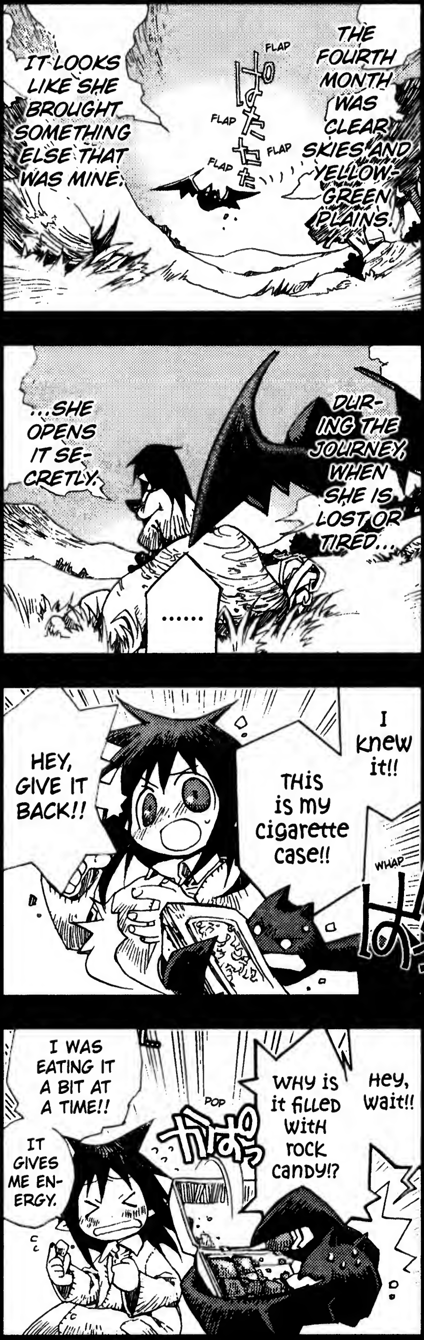

Are you done saying good-bye?
I really think you shouldn't do this.
I don't think you can handle it.
Look. That backpack is way too big for you.
A LITTLE BIT MORE.
JUST A BIT.
Do you want to go back?
NO, I DON'T.
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME, SENSEI.
I UNDERSTAND WHAT A "JOURNEY" IS.
IT'S MUCH MORE WORK...
...THAN GOING TO JOHAN'S RANCH, OR GOING TO SANDYORE TOWN WITHOUT A HORSE, RIGHT?
...Your world is still small.

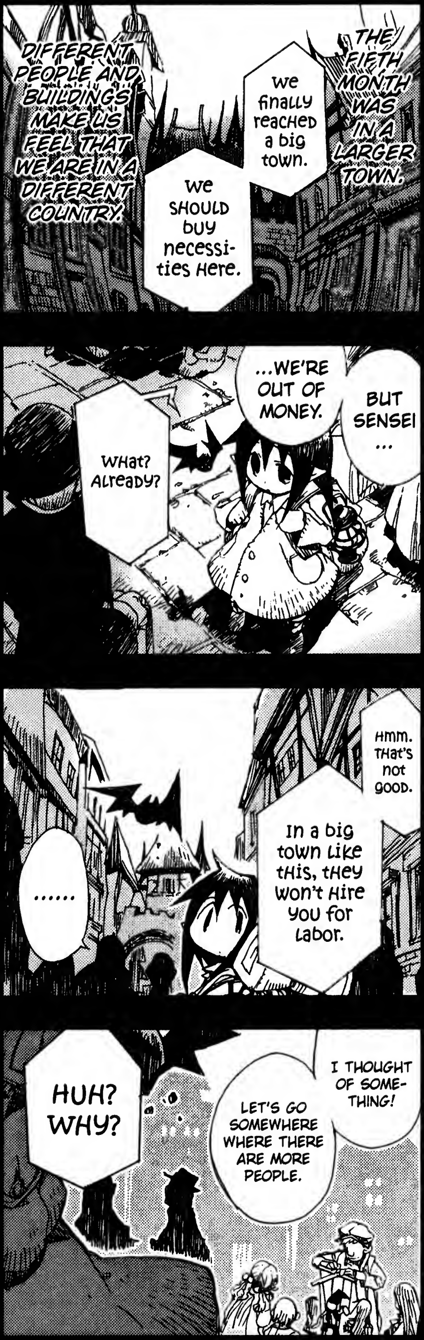

THE FIRST MONTH WE GOT TO A GRAY TOWN WITH A GRAY SKY.
Do you know how to look at the map?
OUR JOURNEY PROBABLY STARTED HERE.
The small thing at the top is that town.
You can read the names of the areas surrounding it, right?
UMMM.
I CAN'T.
I THOUGHT IF I USED THESE I COULD READ ANYTHING, LIKE YOU.
HUH!? You brought those glasses?
YEAH.
AS PROOF THAT YOU WERE HUMAN.
Don't speak like I'm dead.
I know I'm not human anymore.
Usually travelers go north, but we're doing the opposite...
...and starting from the north.
REALLY? IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE NORTH?
NO.
Maybe they go because there's nothing there.
The northern lands are cold and empty.
You can imagine a lonely traveler heading there, right?
On the contrary, the southern lands...
...are sunny, warm, and colorful.
So maybe it doesn't fit the traveler's needs.
I SEE.
SINCE WE'RE HEADING SOUTH...
...MAYBE IT'S GOING TO BE A FUN TRIP.
...You know why we're traveling, right?

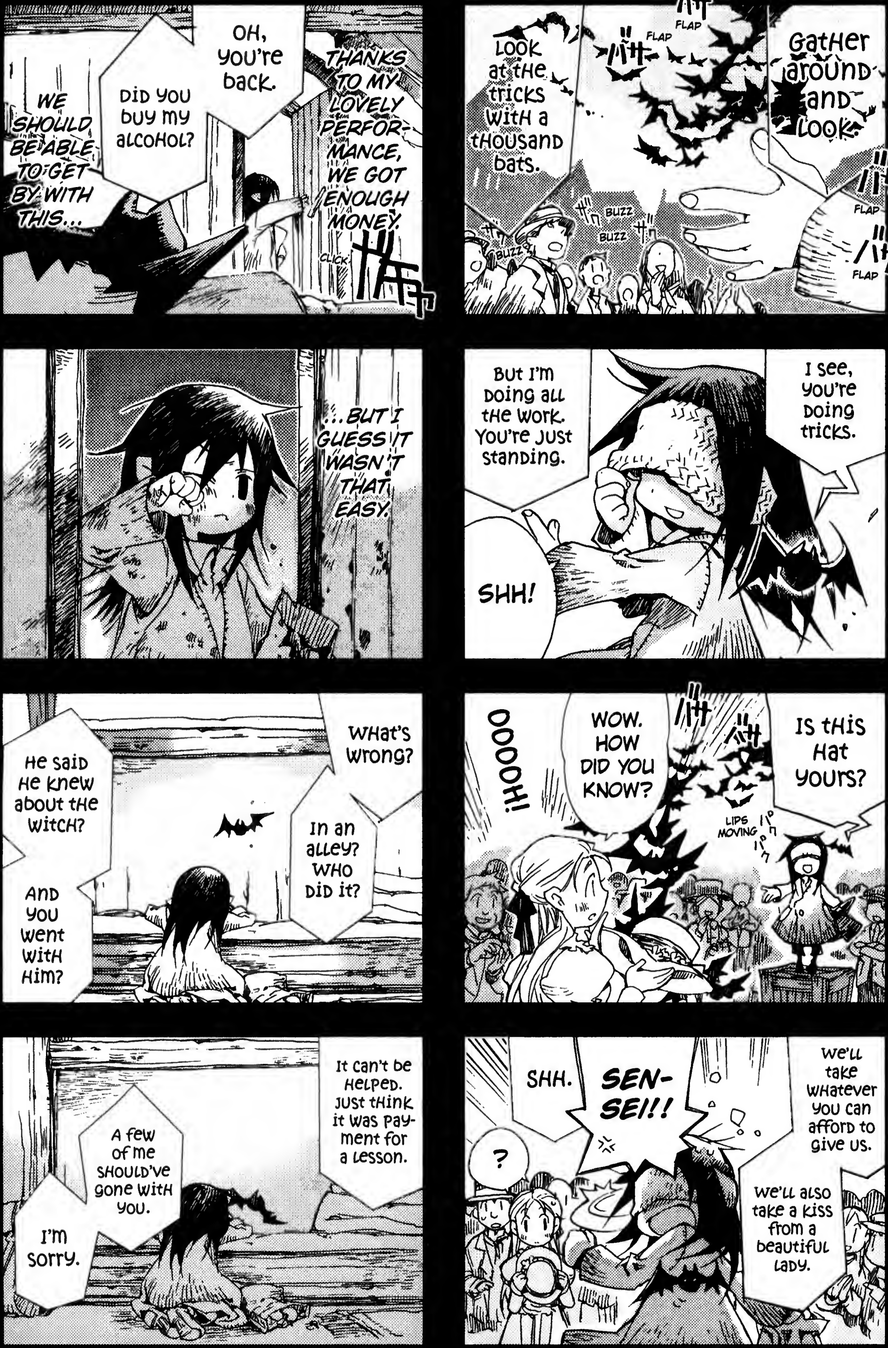

THE FIRST MONTH WE WERE IN A TOWN WITH WHITE MIST NEAR A LAKE.
HERE YOU GO. CAN OF SARDINES AND BREAD.
THIS IS THE LAST OF WHAT WE'VE SEEN BEFORE.
THANK YOU, MAY-SAN.
...? THAT'S ODD.
WAS THAT NOT ENOUGH TO PAY FOR IT?
NO, I HAVE A GIRL WHO COMES HERE OFTEN.
YOU REMIND ME OF HER.
IT'S WEIRD BECAUSE YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE HER AT ALL.
ドキ
BADUM
R-REALLY?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR BAT.
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE.
HIS SLY-LOOKING FACE REMINDS ME OF THE CRANKY MAN WHO LIVES IN THE NORTHERN TOWN.
OH, I SEE.

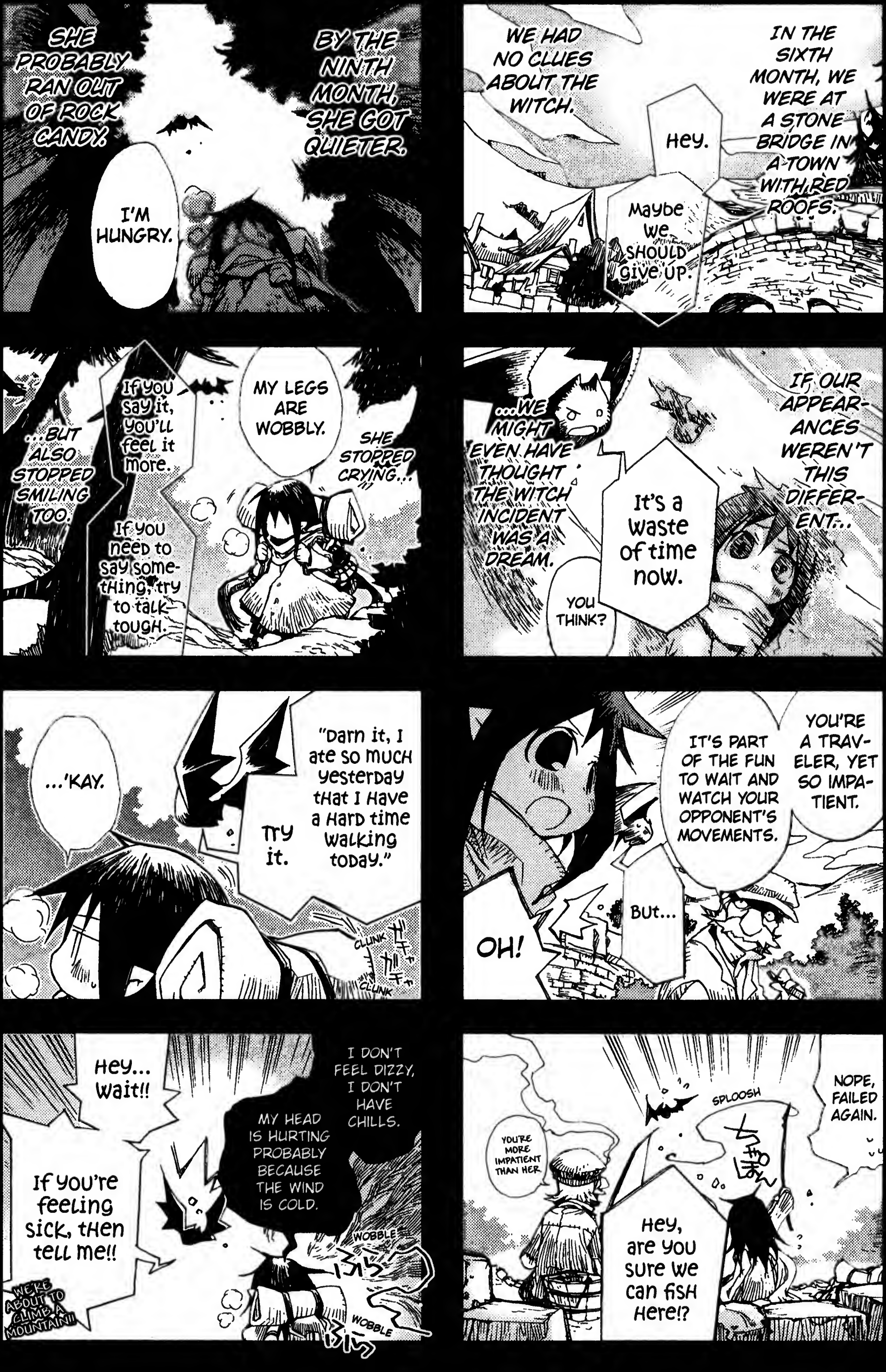

38... 39.
40!
THE REAL JOURNEY STARTS AFTER LEAVING TOWN.
WE WALK THE UNACCUSTOMED ROAD WITH OUR UNACCUSTOMED BODY.
IT'S BEEN 40 DAYS SINCE WE STARTED TRAVELING.
IT'S BEEN THAT LONG SINCE WE TURNED THIS WAY.
WE'RE ABOUT TO ENTER THE BORDER OF A DIFFERENT COUNTRY.
RIGHT, SENSEI?
38... 39.
40!
There's only 40! We have to go back!
WHAT!? AGAIN?
I only have 940!! I left 60 of them in that forest!
All because that damn witch cut up my body into 1,000 pieces!!
YOU HAVE TO GET USED TO THAT BODY OR WE CAN'T MOVE FORWARD.
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
バサバサバサバサ

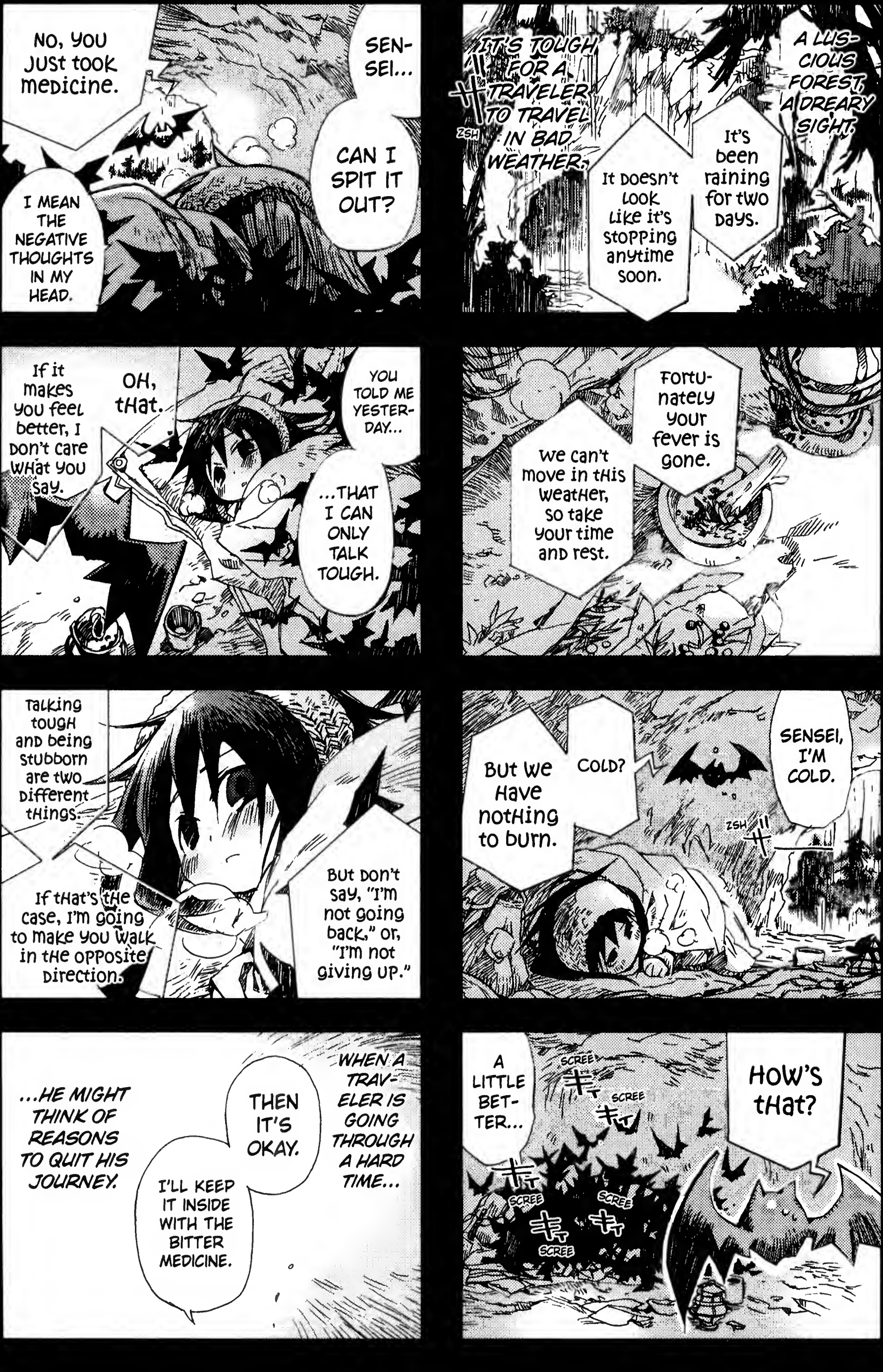

THE SECOND MONTH WAS PAST THE BORDER AND IN A TOWN WITH HAY ROOFS.
OH, YOU'RE TRAVELING!?
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO RUN ERRANDS FOR YOUR MOTHER?
WE FOUND A POSITIVE SIDE TO BEING A KID TRAVELER.
UNKNOWN TOWNS AND PEOPLE WOULD ACCEPT HER EASILY.
HOW TOUGH. YOU'RE SO YOUNG.
POOR THING.
YOU CAN STAY WITH ME TONIGHT.
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP ME MAKE SUGAR.
WELL, SHE'S A SMALL GIRL.
Hey, Don't forget our objective.
OH YEAH.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE BLACK WITCH WENT?
I ALSO FOUND A NEGATIVE SIDE TO BEING A KID TRAVELER.
OH, SO YOU WANT TO MEET A WITCH.
DO YOU HAVE A WISH OR SOMETHING?
MAYBE HER FATHER RAN OFF WITH A WOMAN.
EVIL WOMAN.
POOR THING.
THEY WOULDN'T TAKE HER SERIOUSLY.
LOOK! A MAN GAVE ME A KNIFE.
That's nice.
HE SAID HE USED TO TRAVEL WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
AND HE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE MAPLE SUGAR THEN.
HE TAUGHT ME TOO.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER SHE WAS GOING TO BE OKAY...
...BUT SHE'S STARTING TO GET TOUGHER, SO THE JOURNEY IS HELPING.
HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE THIS KNIFE,
AND HOW TO TIE ROPE.
ALSO HOW TO MAKE DRIED MEAT.
HE SAID SNAKES AND BATS ARE DELICIOUS.
AND MY POSITION IS GETTING MORE DANGEROUS AT THE SAME TIME.

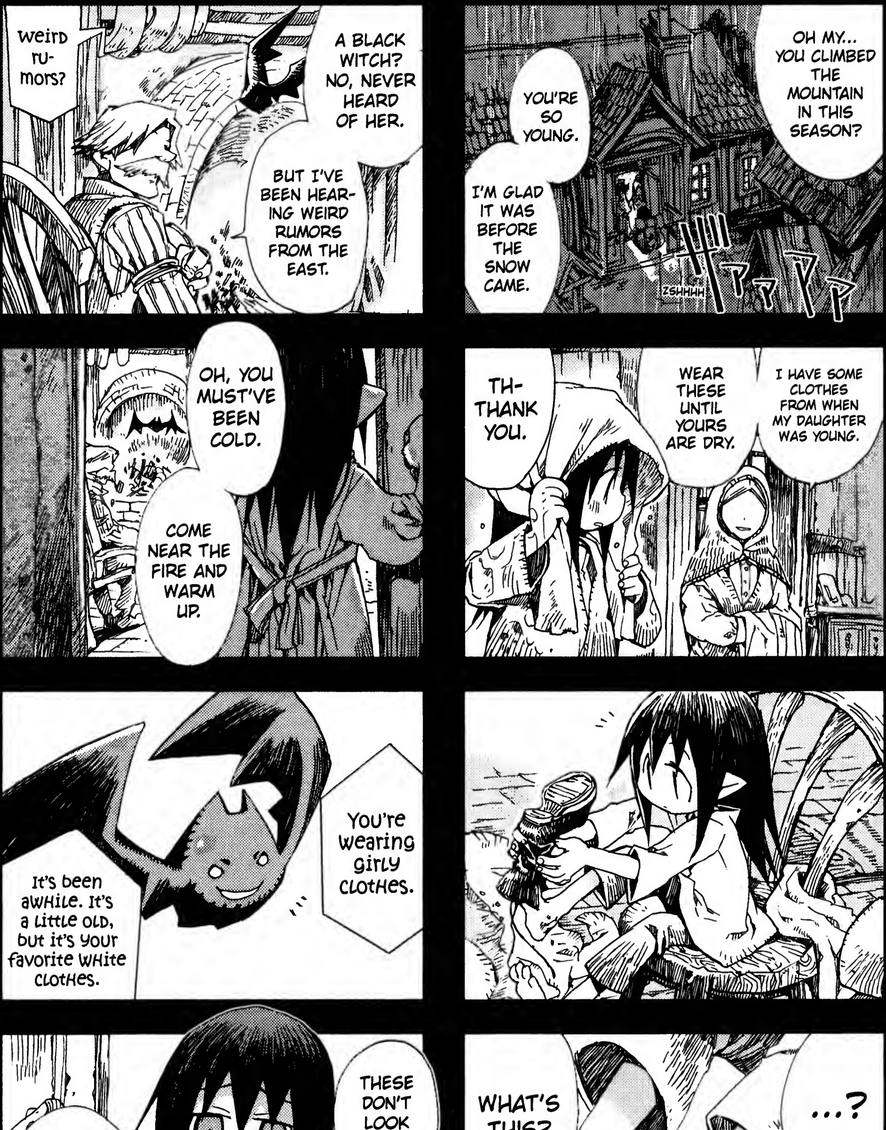

THE FOURTH MONTH WAS CLEAR SKIES AND YELLOW-GREEN PLAINS.
はたはた
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE BROUGHT SOMETHING ELSE THAT WAS MINE.
DURING THE JOURNEY, WHEN SHE IS LOST OR TIRED...
...SHE OPENS IT SECRETLY.
......
I knew it!!
THIS is my cigarette case!!
HEY, GIVE IT BACK!!
WHAP
はっ
Hey, Wait!!
WHY is it filled with rock candy!?
POP
かぱっ
I WAS EATING IT A BIT AT A TIME!!
IT GIVES ME ENERGY.

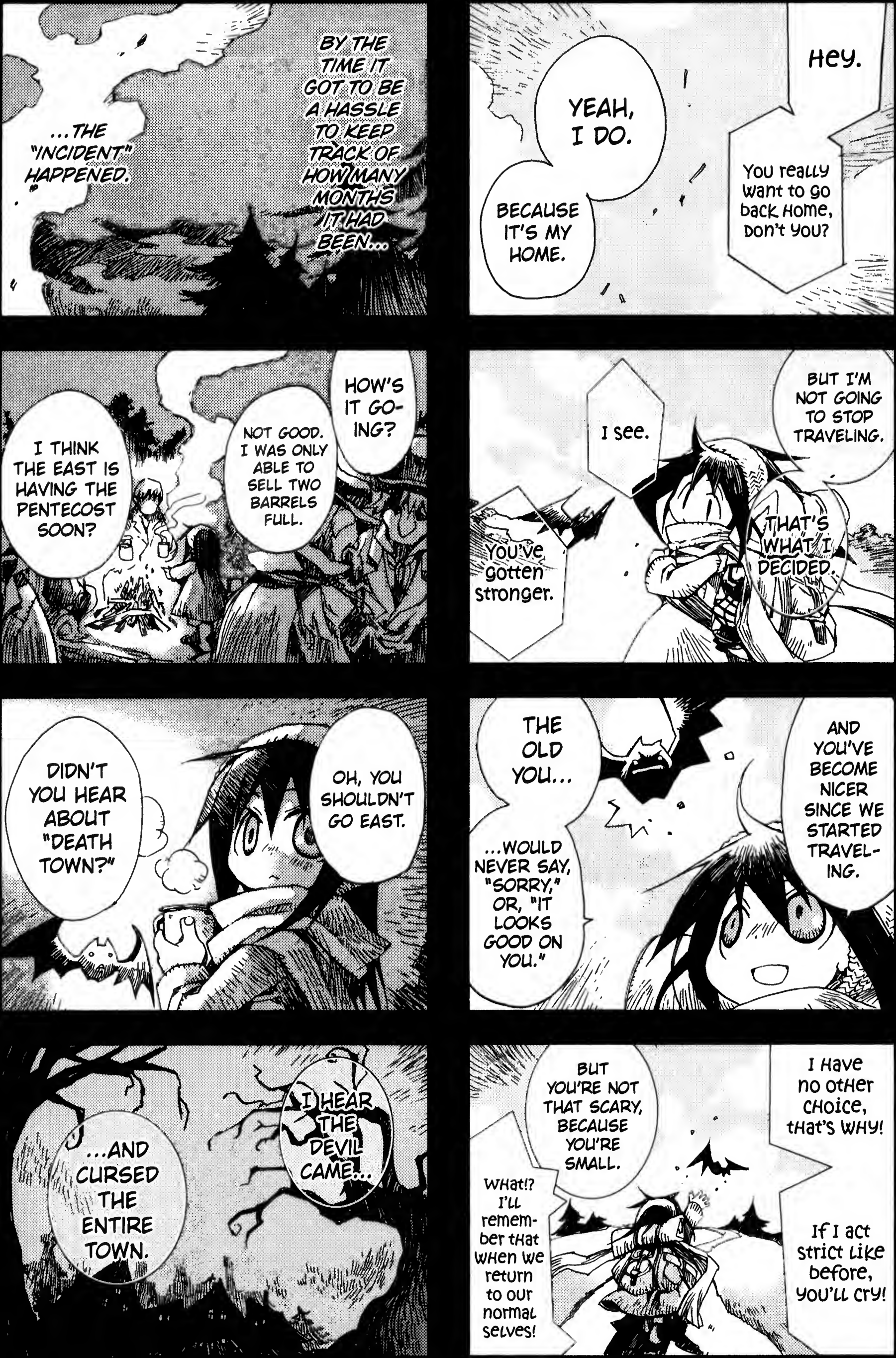

THE FIFTH MONTH WAS IN A LARGER TOWN.
we finally reached a big town.
DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND BUILDINGS MAKE US FEEL THAT WE ARE IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY.
we SHOULD buy necessities Here.
BUT SENSEI...
...WE'RE OUT OF MONEY.
What? Already?
Hmm. That's not good.
In a big town like this, they won't hire you for labor.
......
I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING!
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE WHERE THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE.
HUH? WHY?

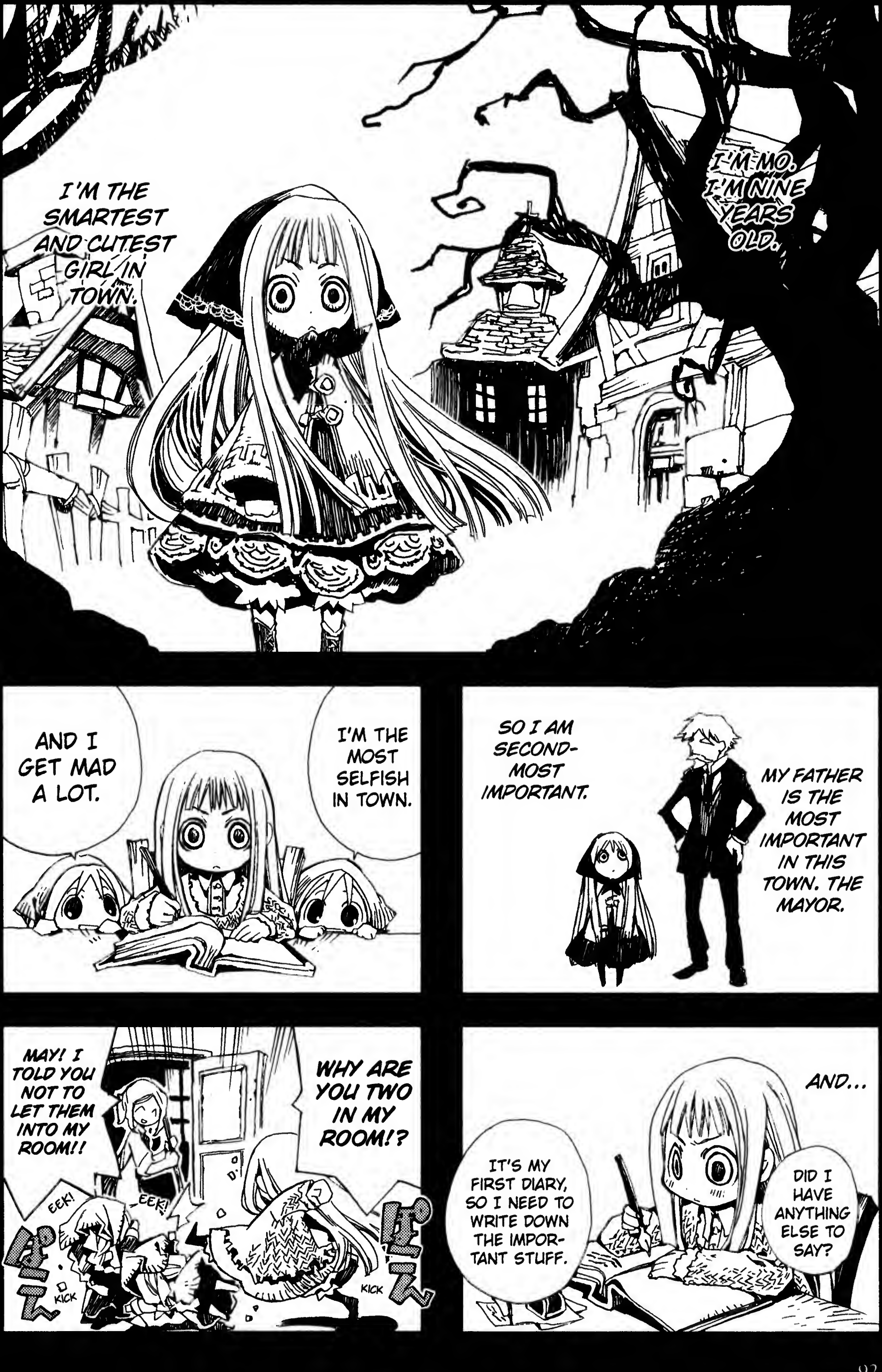

Gather around and look.
FLAP
FLAP
Look at the tricks with a thousand bats.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
FLAP
FLAP
I see, you're doing tricks.
But I'm doing all the work. You're just standing.
SHH!
Is this hat yours?
LIPS MOVING
WOW. HOW DID YOU KNOW?
OOOOH!
We'll take whatever you can afford to give us.
We'll also take a kiss from a beautiful lady.
SEN-SEI!!
SHH.
?
THANKS TO MY LOVELY PERFORMANCE, WE GOT ENOUGH MONEY.
CLICK
OH, you're back.
DID YOU buy my alcohol?
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BY WITH THIS...
...BUT I GUESS IT WASN'T THAT EASY.
What's wrong?
In an alley? WHO DID it?
He said he knew about the witch?
And you went with him?
It can't be helped. Just think it was payment for a lesson.
A few of me should've gone with you.
I'm sorry.

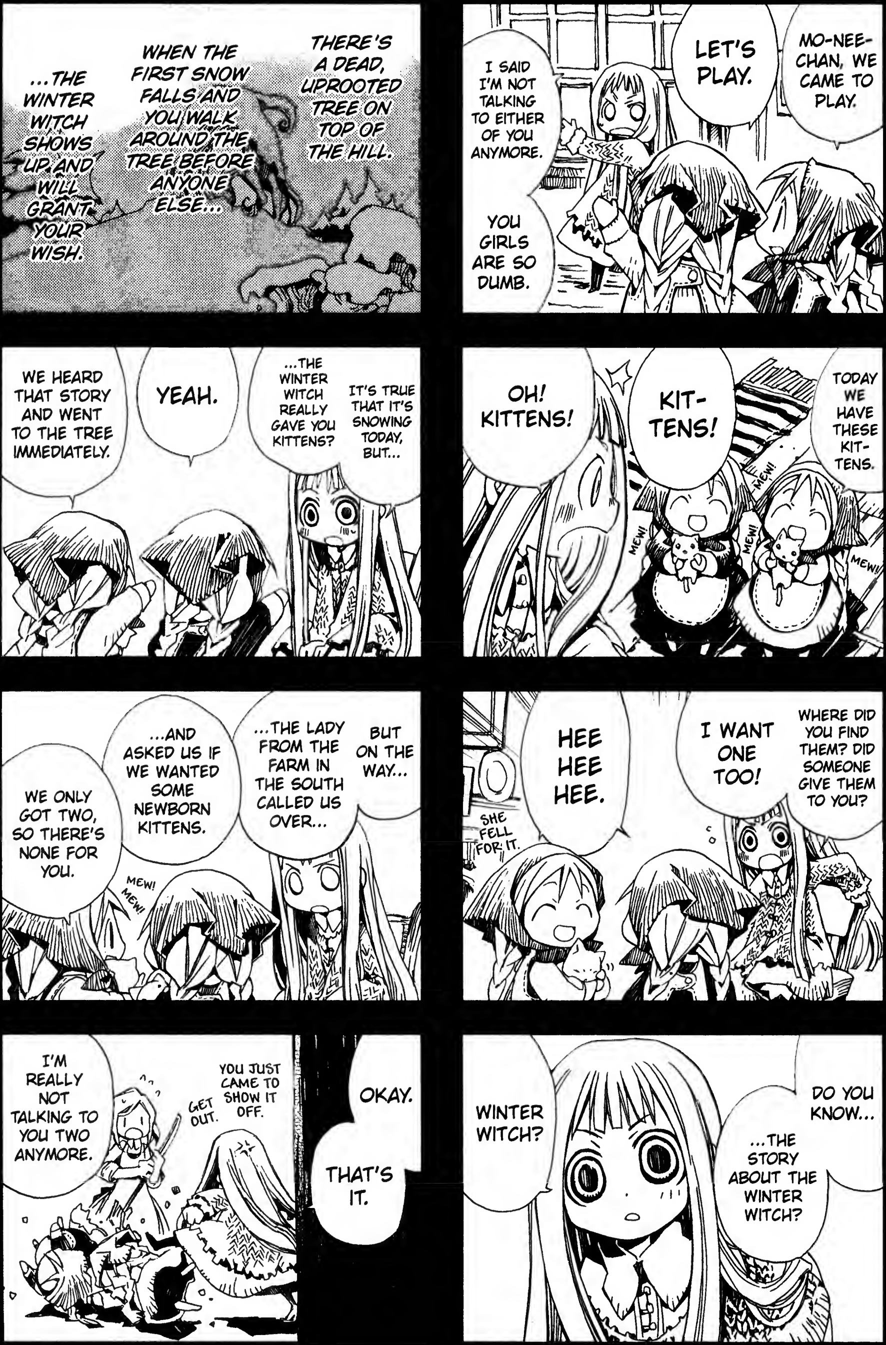

IN THE SIXTH MONTH, WE WERE AT A STONE BRIDGE IN A TOWN WITH RED ROOFS.
WE HAD NO CLUES ABOUT THE WITCH.
Hey.
Maybe we SHOULD give up.
IF OUR APPEARANCES WEREN'T THIS DIFFERENT...
...WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE THOUGHT THE WITCH INCIDENT WAS A DREAM.
It's a waste of time now.
YOU THINK?
YOU'RE A TRAVELER, YET SO IMPATIENT.
IT'S PART OF THE FUN TO WAIT AND WATCH YOUR OPPONENT'S MOVEMENTS.
But...
OH!
NOPE, FAILED AGAIN.
SPLOOSH
YOU'RE MORE IMPATIENT THAN HER.
Hey, are you sure we can fish Here!?
BY THE NINTH MONTH, SHE GOT QUIETER.
SHE PROBABLY RAN OUT OF ROCK CANDY.
I'M HUNGRY.
SHE STOPPED CRYING...
...BUT ALSO STOPPED SMILING TOO.
MY LEGS ARE WOBBLY.
If you say it, you'll feel it more.
If you need to say something, try to talk tough.
"Darn it, I ate so much yesterday that I Have a Hard time walking today."
Try it.
...'KAY.
CLUNK
CLUNK
I DON'T FEEL DIZZY, I DON'T HAVE CHILLS.
MY HEAD IS HURTING PROBABLY BECAUSE THE WIND IS COLD.
Hey... Wait!!
If you're feeling sick, then tell me!!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WE'RE ABOUT TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN!!

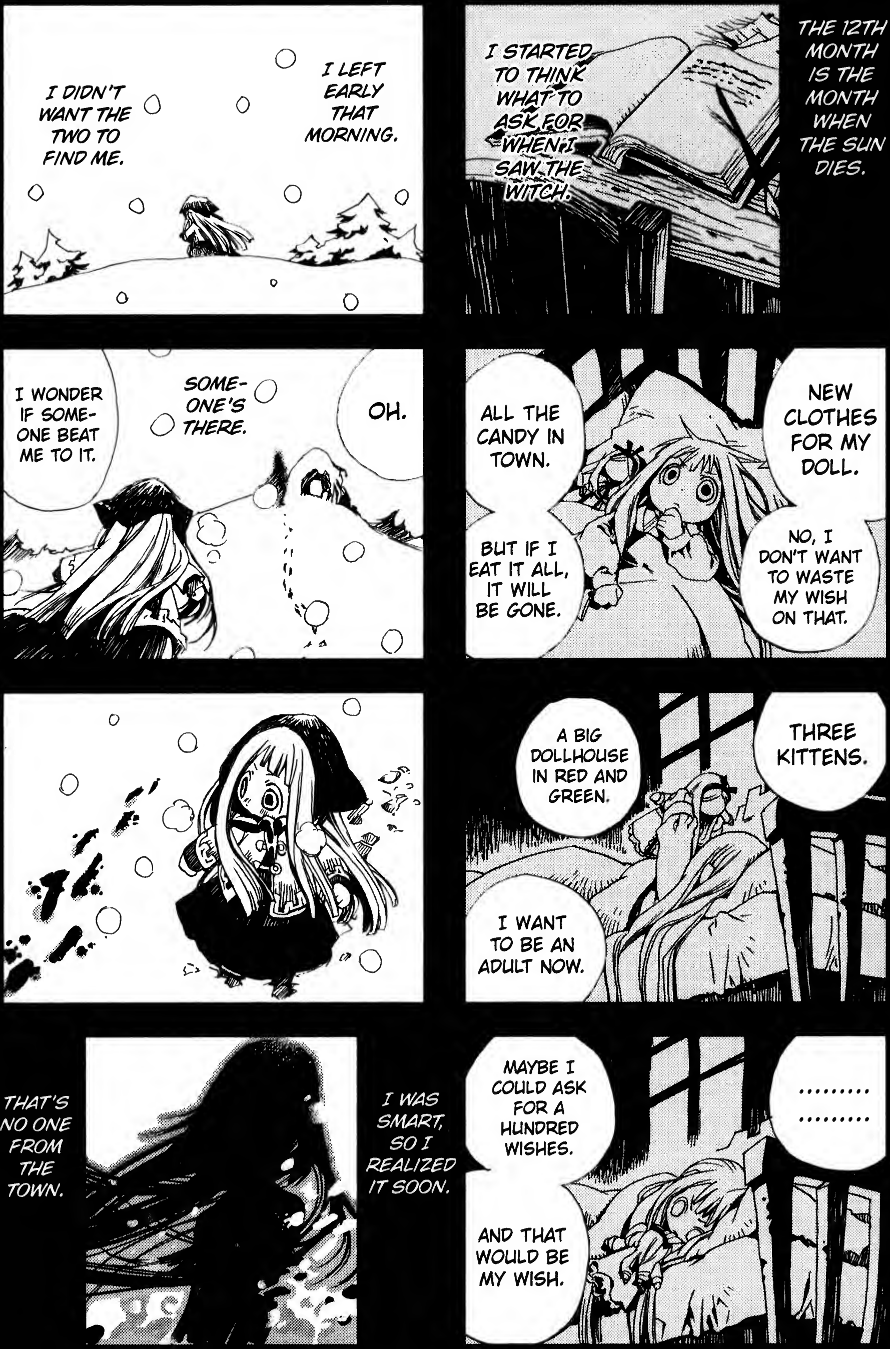

A LUSCIOUS FOREST, A DREARY SIGHT.
IT'S TOUGH FOR A TRAVELER TO TRAVEL IN BAD WEATHER.
ZSH
It's been raining for two days.
It doesn't look like it's stopping anytime soon.
SENSEI...
CAN I SPIT IT OUT?
NO, YOU JUST took medicine.
I MEAN THE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD.
Fortunately your fever is gone.
we can't move in this weather, so take your time and rest.
YOU TOLD ME YESTERDAY...
...THAT I CAN ONLY TALK TOUGH.
OH, that.
If it makes you feel better, I don't care what you say.
SENSEI, I'M COLD.
ZSH
COLD?
But we Have nothing to burn.
But don't say, "I'm not going back," or, "I'm not giving up."
Talking tough and being stubborn are two different things.
If that's the case, I'm going to make you walk in the opposite direction.
HOW'S that?
A LITTLE BETTER...
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
WHEN A TRAVELER IS GOING THROUGH A HARD TIME...
THEN IT'S OKAY.
I'LL KEEP IT INSIDE WITH THE BITTER MEDICINE.
...HE MIGHT THINK OF REASONS TO QUIT HIS JOURNEY.

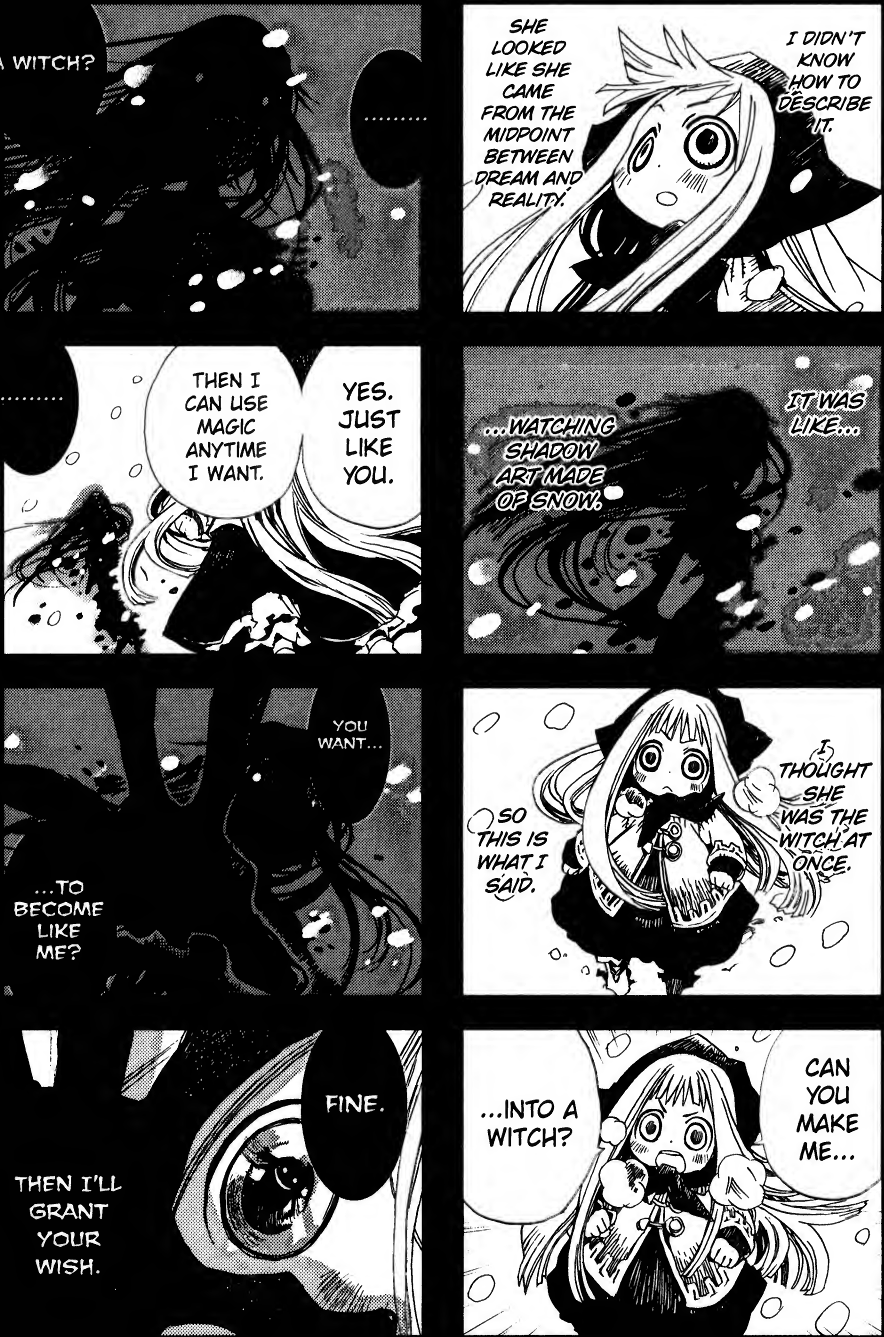

OH MY... YOU CLIMBED THE MOUNTAIN IN THIS SEASON?
YOU'RE SO YOUNG.
I'M GLAD IT WAS BEFORE THE SNOW CAME.
ZSHHHH
A BLACK WITCH? NO, NEVER HEARD OF HER.
BUT I'VE BEEN HEARING WEIRD RUMORS FROM THE EAST.
weird rumors?
I HAVE SOME CLOTHES FROM WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS YOUNG.
WEAR THESE UNTIL YOURS ARE DRY.
TH-THANK YOU.
OH, YOU MUST'VE BEEN COLD.
COME NEAR THE FIRE AND WARM UP.
You're wearing girly clothes.
It's been awhile. It's a little old, but it's your favorite white clothes.
...?
WHAT'S THIS?
THESE DON'T LOOK GOOD...
...ON ME ANYMORE.

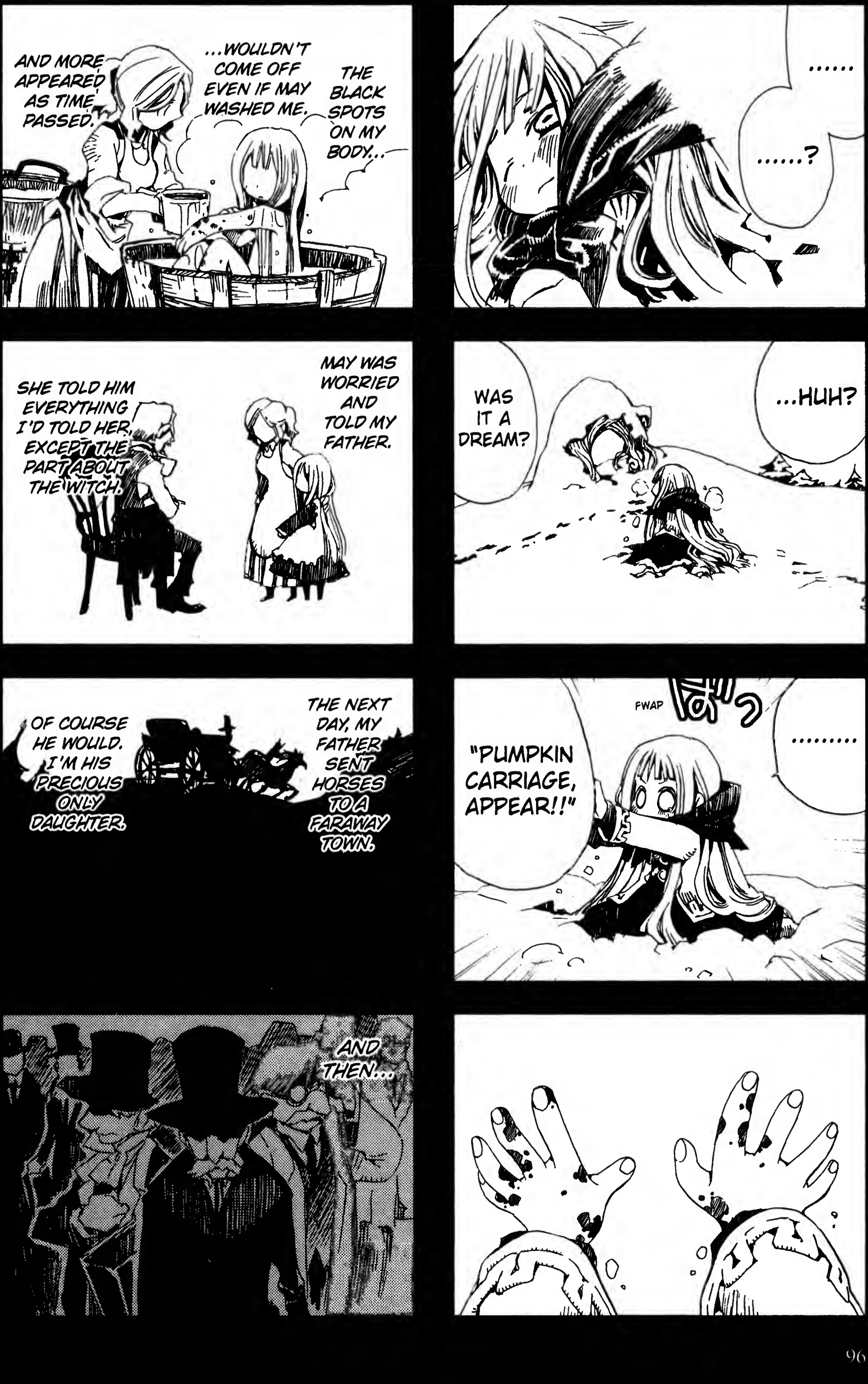

Hey.
You really want to go back Home, Don't you?
YEAH, I DO.
BECAUSE IT'S MY HOME.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STOP TRAVELING.
THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED.
I see.
You've gotten stronger.
AND YOU'VE BECOME NICER SINCE WE STARTED TRAVELING.
THE OLD YOU...
...WOULD NEVER SAY, "SORRY," OR, "IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU."
I Have no other choice, that's WHY!
If I act strict like before, you'll cry!
BUT YOU'RE NOT THAT SCARY, BECAUSE YOU'RE SMALL.
WHAT!? I'll remember that when we return to our normal selves!
BY THE TIME IT GOT TO BE A HASSLE TO KEEP TRACK OF HOW MANY MONTHS IT HAD BEEN...
...THE "INCIDENT" HAPPENED.
HOW'S IT GOING?
NOT GOOD. I WAS ONLY ABLE TO SELL TWO BARRELS FULL.
I THINK THE EAST IS HAVING THE PENTECOST SOON?
OH, YOU SHOULDN'T GO EAST.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ABOUT "DEATH TOWN?"
I HEAR THE DEVIL CAME...
...AND CURSED THE ENTIRE TOWN.

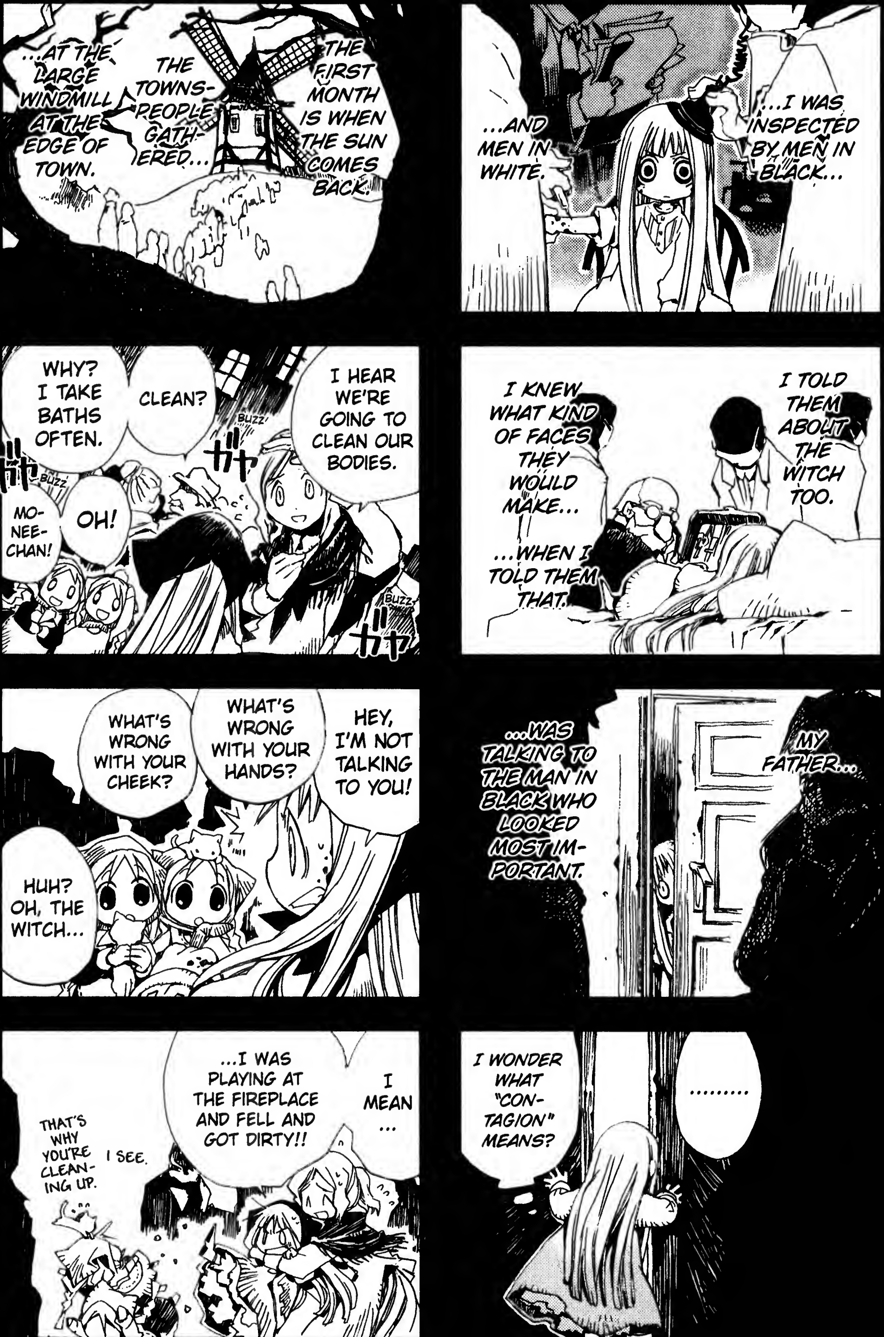

I'M MO. I'M NINE YEARS OLD.
I'M THE SMARTEST AND CUTEST GIRL IN TOWN.
MY FATHER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS TOWN. THE MAYOR.
SO I AM SECOND-MOST IMPORTANT.
I'M THE MOST SELFISH IN TOWN.
AND I GET MAD A LOT.
AND...
DID I HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY?
IT'S MY FIRST DIARY, SO I NEED TO WRITE DOWN THE IMPORTANT STUFF.
WHY ARE YOU TWO IN MY ROOM!?
MAY! I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET THEM INTO MY ROOM!!
KICK
EEK!
EEK!
KICK

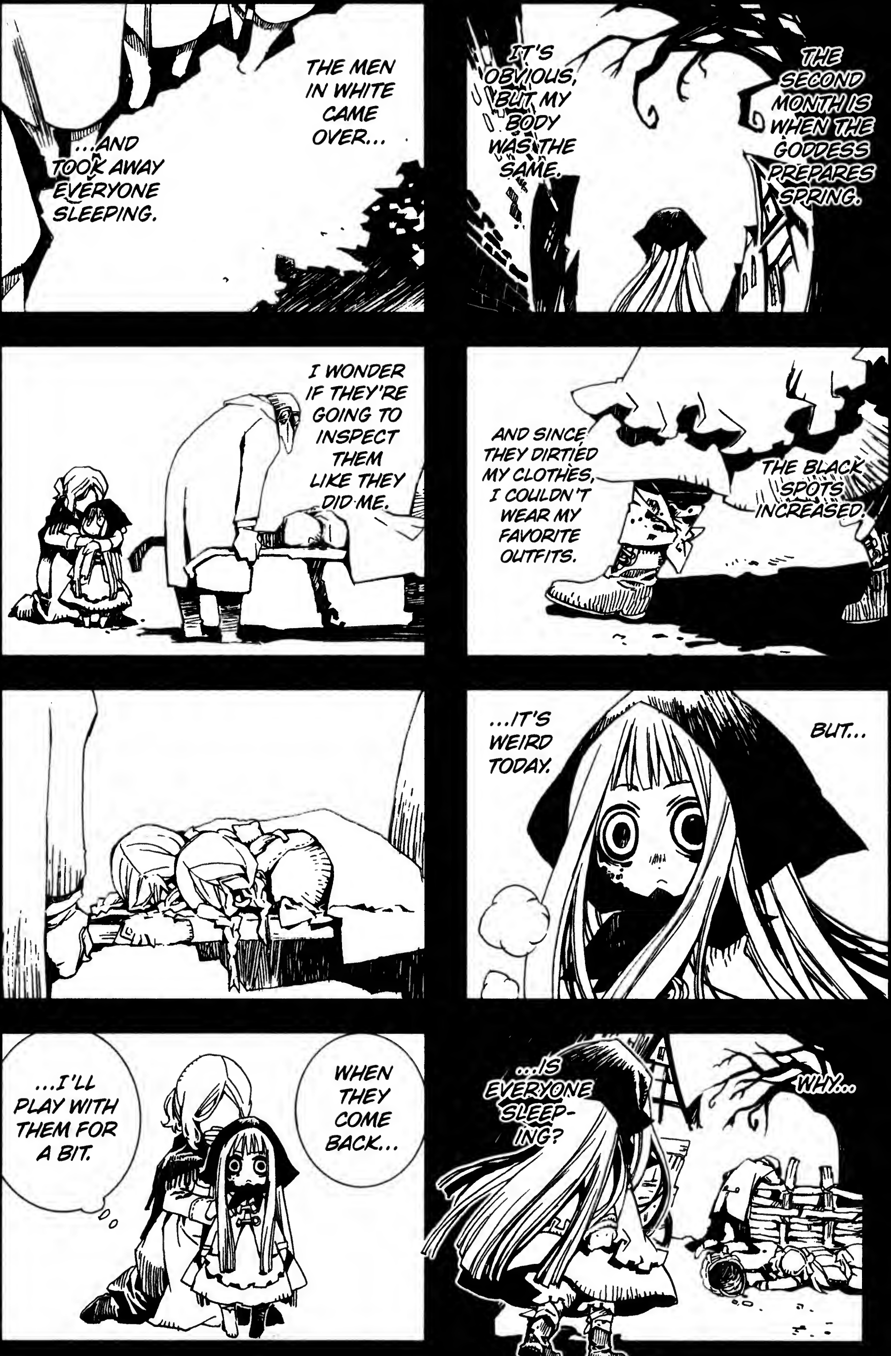

MO-NEE-CHAN, WE CAME TO PLAY.
LET'S PLAY.
I SAID I'M NOT TALKING TO EITHER OF YOU ANYMORE.
YOU GIRLS ARE SO DUMB.
TODAY WE HAVE THESE KIT-TENS.
MEW!
MEW!
MEW!
MEW!
KIT-TENS!
OH! KITTENS!
WHERE DID YOU FIND THEM? DID SOMEONE GIVE THEM TO YOU?
I WANT ONE TOO!
HEE HEE HEE.
SHE FELL FOR IT.
DO YOU KNOW...
...THE STORY ABOUT THE WINTER WITCH?
WINTER WITCH?
THERE'S A DEAD, UPROOTED TREE ON TOP OF THE HILL.
WHEN THE FIRST SNOW FALLS AND YOU WALK AROUND THE TREE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE...
...THE WINTER WITCH SHOWS UP AND WILL GRANT YOUR WISH.
IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S SNOWING TODAY, BUT...
...THE WINTER WITCH REALLY GAVE YOU KITTENS?
YEAH.
WE HEARD THAT STORY AND WENT TO THE TREE IMMEDIATELY.
BUT ON THE WAY...
...THE LADY FROM THE FARM IN THE SOUTH CALLED US OVER...
...AND ASKED US IF WE WANTED SOME NEWBORN KITTENS.
WE ONLY GOT TWO, SO THERE'S NONE FOR YOU.
MEW!
MEW!
OKAY.
THAT'S IT.
YOU JUST CAME TO SHOW IT OFF.
GET OUT.
I'M REALLY NOT TALKING TO YOU TWO ANYMORE.

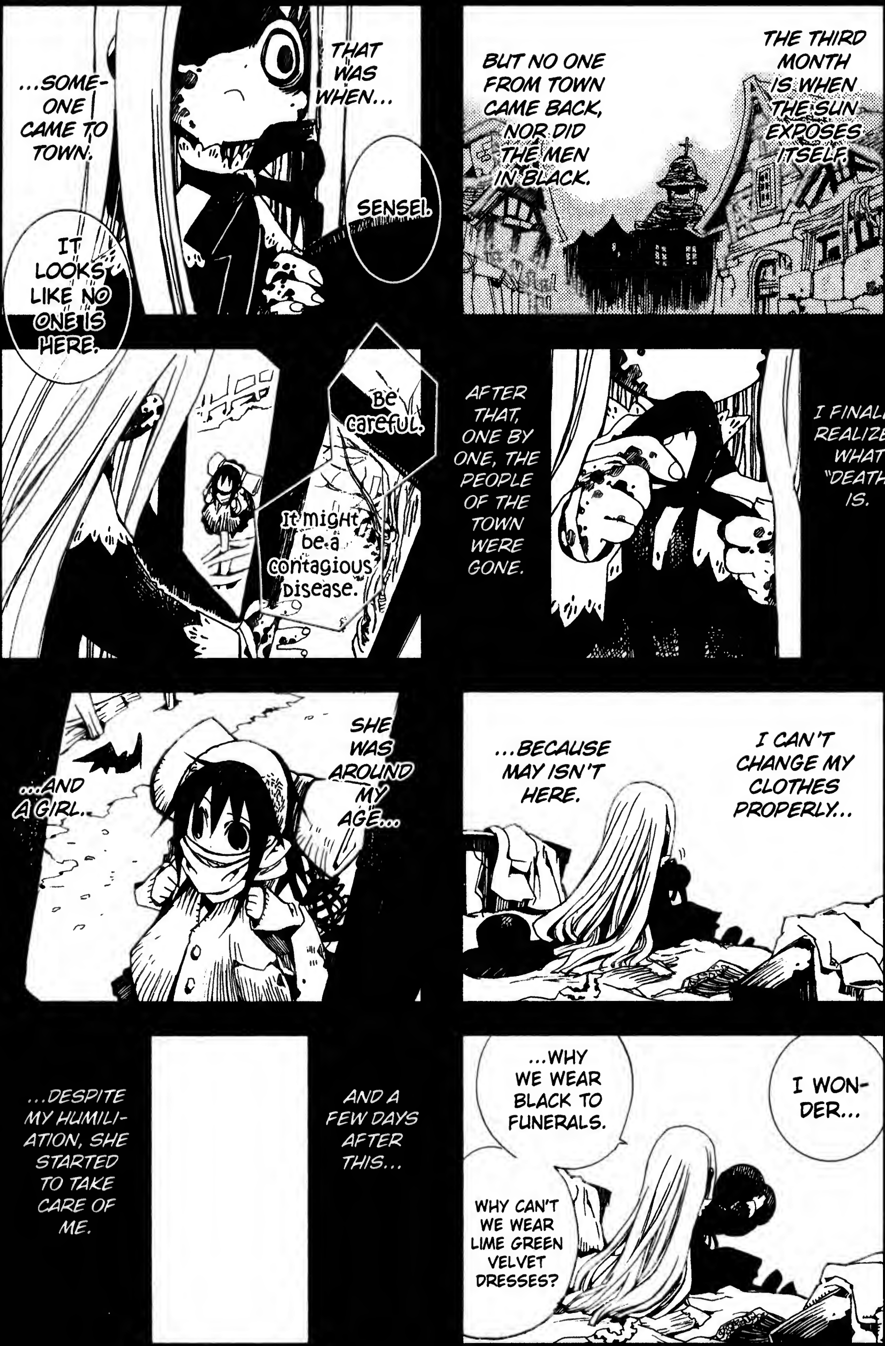

THE 12TH MONTH IS THE MONTH WHEN THE SUN DIES.
I STARTED TO THINK WHAT TO ASK FOR WHEN I SAW THE WITCH.
I LEFT EARLY THAT MORNING.
I DIDN'T WANT THE TWO TO FIND ME.
NEW CLOTHES FOR MY DOLL.
NO, I DON'T WANT TO WASTE MY WISH ON THAT.
ALL THE CANDY IN TOWN.
BUT IF I EAT IT ALL, IT WILL BE GONE.
OH.
SOMEONE'S THERE.
I WONDER IF SOMEONE BEAT ME TO IT.
THREE KITTENS.
A BIG DOLLHOUSE IN RED AND GREEN.
I WANT TO BE AN ADULT NOW.
....
....
MAYBE I COULD ASK FOR A HUNDRED WISHES.
AND THAT WOULD BE MY WISH.
I WAS SMART, SO I REALIZED IT SOON.
THAT'S NO ONE FROM THE TOWN.

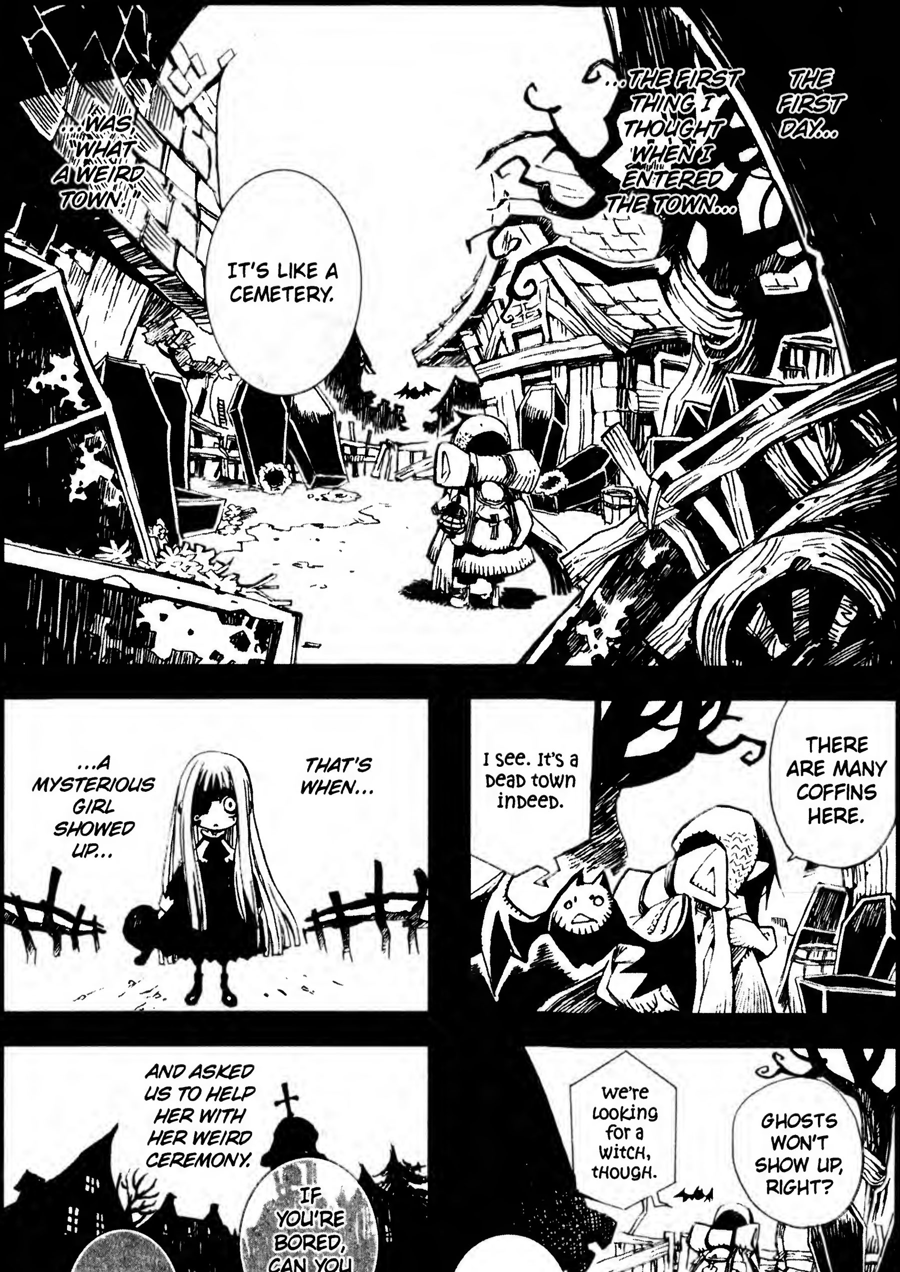

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT.
SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE CAME FROM THE MIDPOINT BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY.
A WITCH?
....
IT WAS LIKE...
...WATCHING SHADOW ART MADE OF SNOW.
YES. JUST LIKE YOU.
THEN I CAN USE MAGIC ANYTIME I WANT.
....
I THOUGHT SHE WAS THE WITCH AT ONCE.
SO THIS IS WHAT I SAID.
YOU WANT...
...TO BECOME LIKE ME?
CAN YOU MAKE ME...
...INTO A WITCH?
FINE.
THEN I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH.

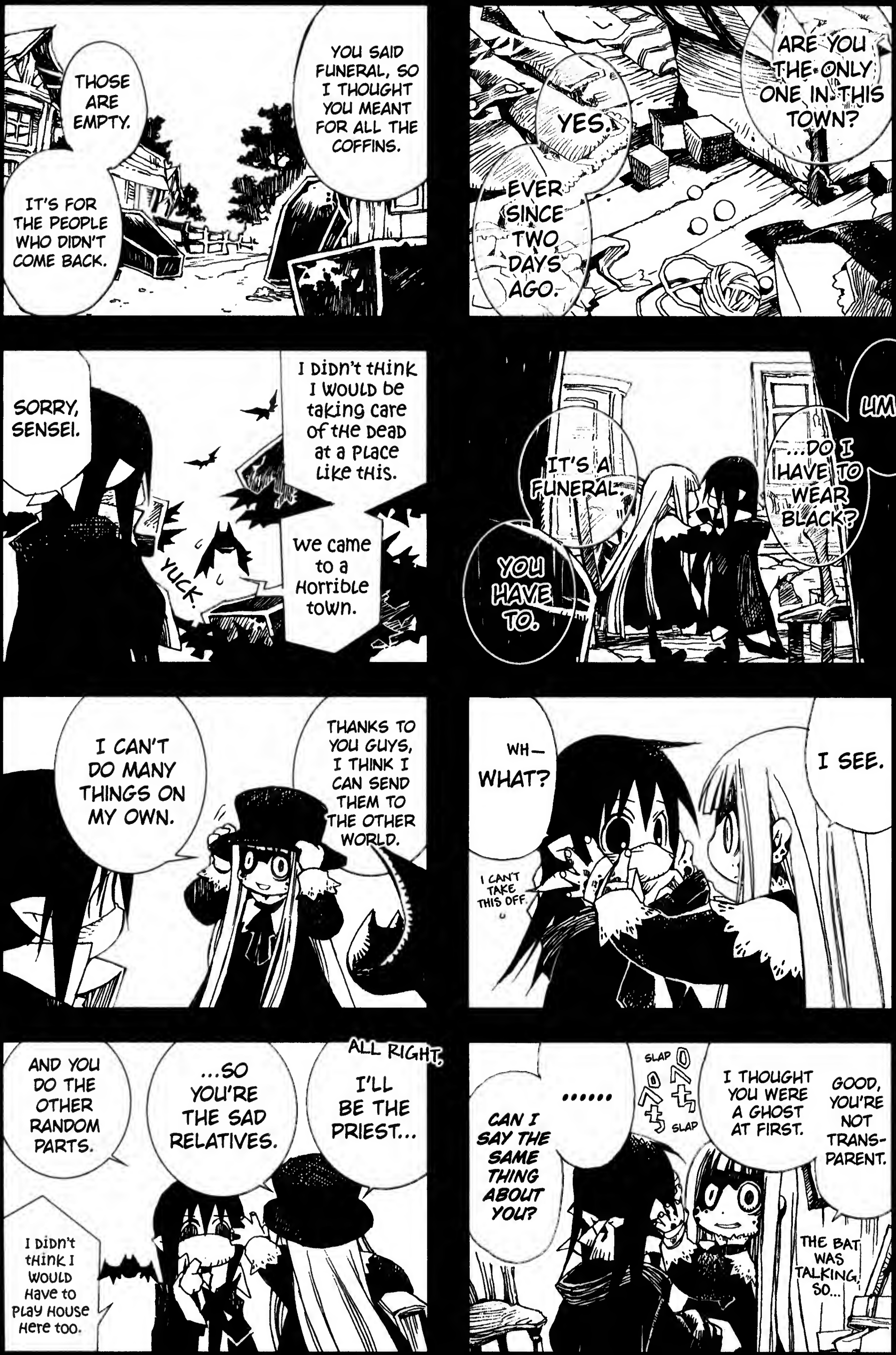

......
......?
...HUH?
WAS IT A DREAM?
"PUMPKIN CARRIAGE, APPEAR!!"
ぱっ
FWAP
....
THE BLACK SPOTS ON MY BODY...
...WOULDN'T COME OFF EVEN IF MAY WASHED ME.
AND MORE APPEARED AS TIME PASSED.
MAY WAS WORRIED AND TOLD MY FATHER.
SHE TOLD HIM EVERYTHING I'D TOLD HER, EXCEPT THE PART ABOUT THE WITCH.
THE NEXT DAY, MY FATHER SENT HORSES TO A FARAWAY TOWN.
OF COURSE HE WOULD. I'M HIS PRECIOUS ONLY DAUGHTER.
AND THEN...

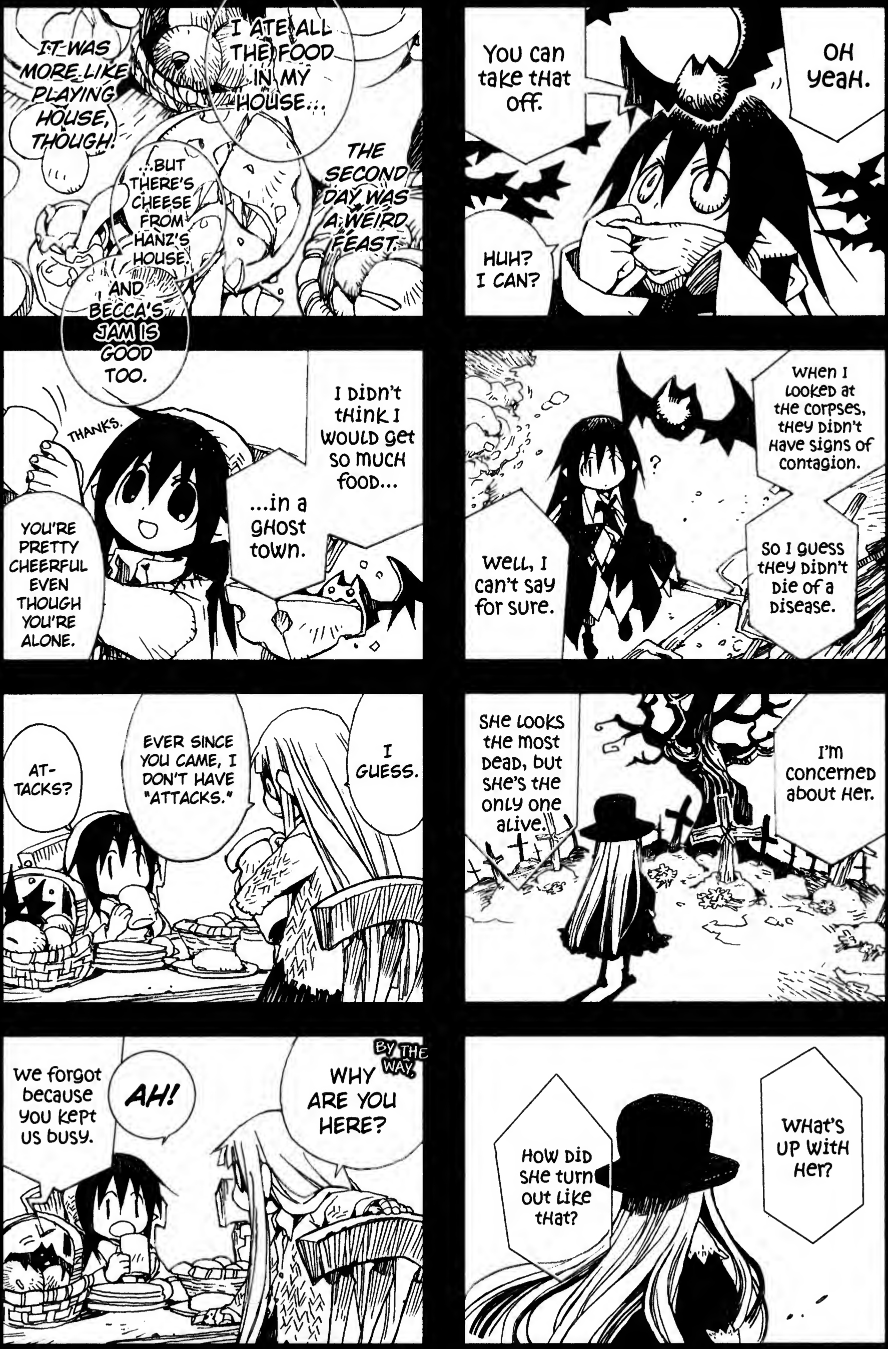

...I WAS INSPECTED BY MEN IN BLACK...
...AND MEN IN WHITE.
I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE WITCH TOO.
I KNEW WHAT KIND OF FACES THEY WOULD MAKE...
...WHEN I TOLD THEM THAT.
MY FATHER...
...WAS TALKING TO THE MAN IN BLACK WHO LOOKED MOST IMPORTANT.
....
I WONDER WHAT "CONTAGION" MEANS?
THE FIRST MONTH IS WHEN THE SUN COMES BACK.
THE TOWNSPEOPLE GATHERED...
...AT THE LARGE WINDMILL AT THE EDGE OF TOWN.
I HEAR WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN OUR BODIES.
CLEAN?
WHY? I TAKE BATHS OFTEN.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
OH!
MO-NEE-CHAN!
HEY, I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR HANDS?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR CHEEK?
HUH? OH, THE WITCH...
I MEAN...
...I WAS PLAYING AT THE FIREPLACE AND FELL AND GOT DIRTY!!
I SEE.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE CLEANING UP.

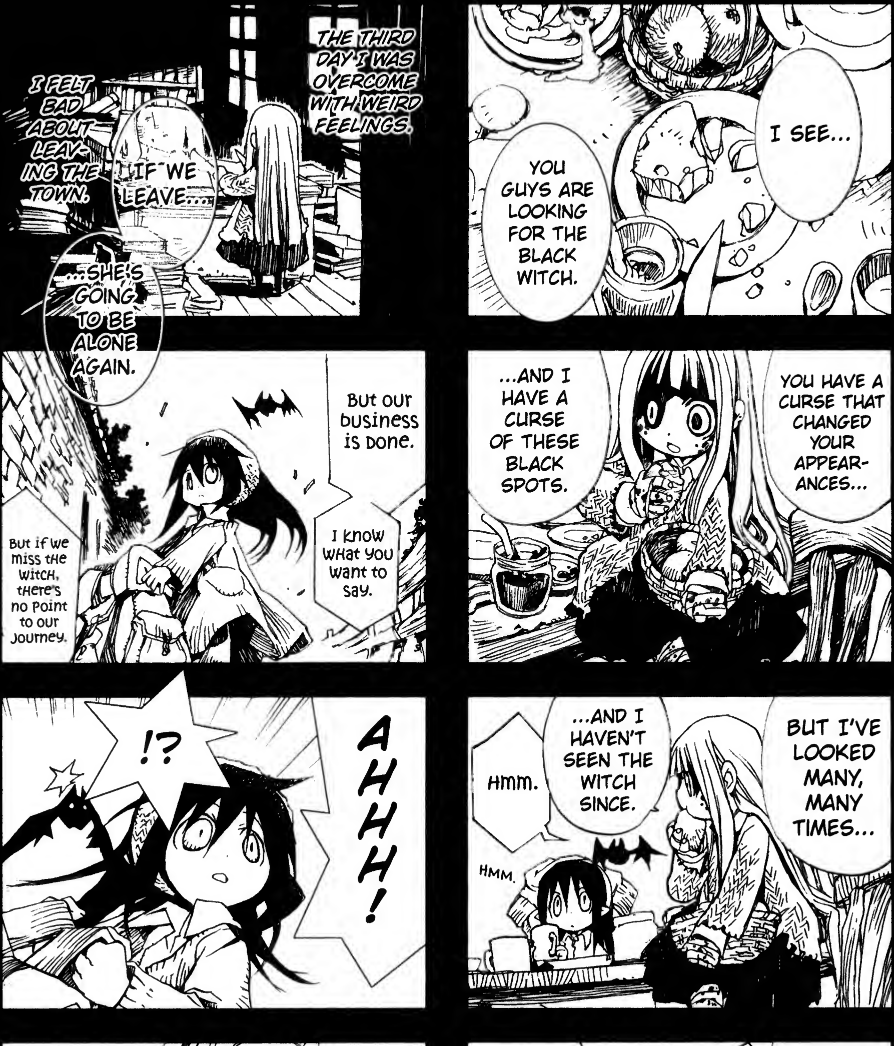

THE SECOND MONTH IS WHEN THE GODDESS PREPARES SPRING.
IT'S OBVIOUS, BUT MY BODY WAS THE SAME.
THE MEN IN WHITE CAME OVER...
...AND TOOK AWAY EVERYONE SLEEPING.
THE BLACK SPOTS INCREASED.
AND SINCE THEY DIRTIED MY CLOTHES, I COULDN'T WEAR MY FAVORITE OUTFITS.
I WONDER IF THEY'RE GOING TO INSPECT THEM LIKE THEY DID ME.
BUT...
...IT'S WEIRD TODAY.
WHY...
...IS EVERYONE SLEEPING?
WHEN THEY COME BACK...
...I'LL PLAY WITH THEM FOR A BIT.

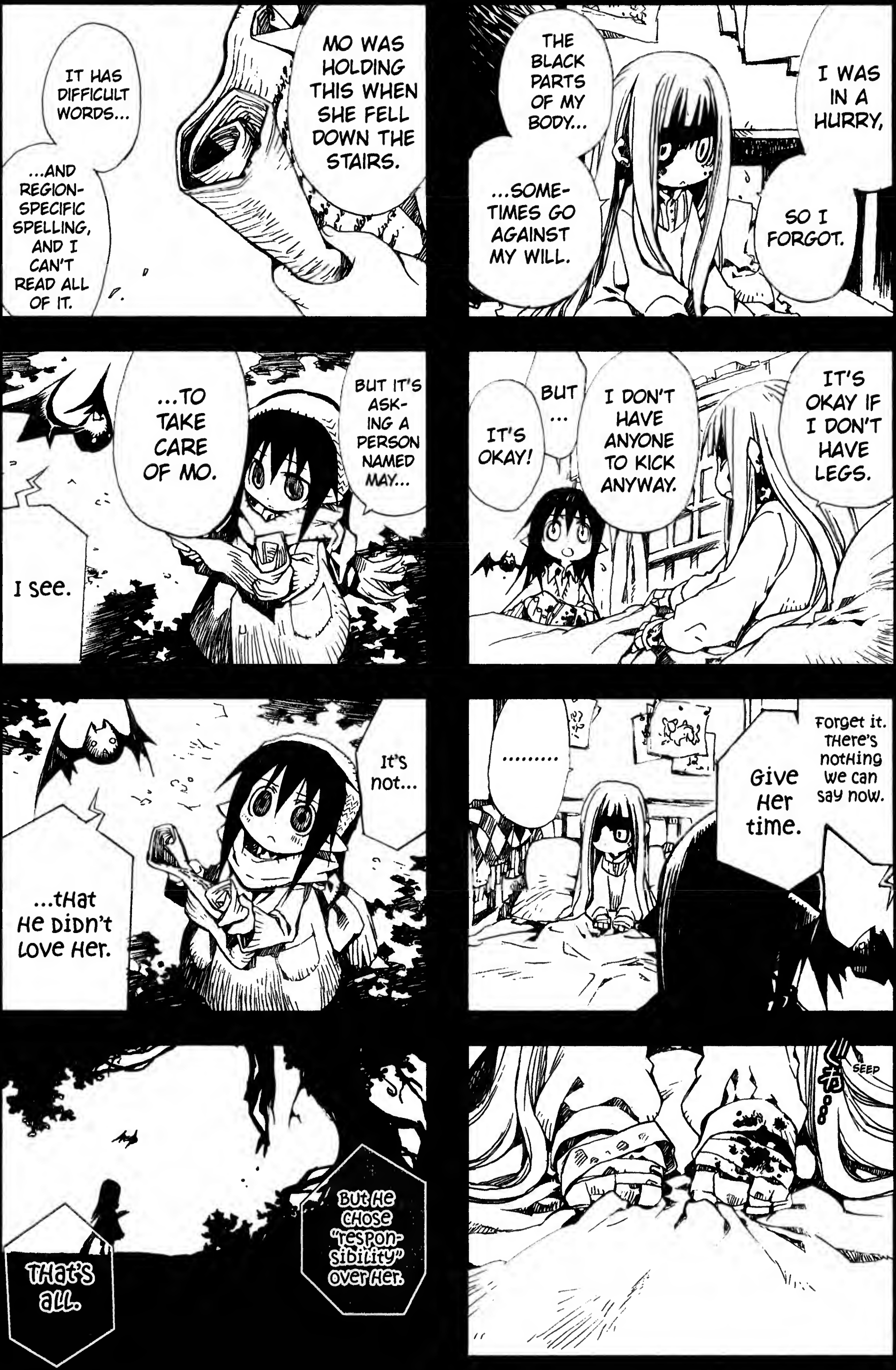

THE THIRD MONTH IS WHEN THE SUN EXPOSES ITSELF.
BUT NO ONE FROM TOWN CAME BACK, NOR DID THE MEN IN BLACK.
THAT WAS WHEN...
...SOMEONE CAME TO TOWN.
SENSEI.
IT LOOKS LIKE NO ONE IS HERE.
I FINALLY REALIZED WHAT "DEATH" IS.
AFTER THAT, ONE BY ONE, THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN WERE GONE.
Be careful.
It might be a contagious disease.
I CAN'T CHANGE MY CLOTHES PROPERLY...
...BECAUSE MAY ISN'T HERE.
SHE WAS AROUND MY AGE...
...AND A GIRL.
I WONDER...
...WHY WE WEAR BLACK TO FUNERALS.
WHY CAN'T WE WEAR LIME GREEN VELVET DRESSES?
AND A FEW DAYS AFTER THIS...
...DESPITE MY HUMILIATION, SHE STARTED TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

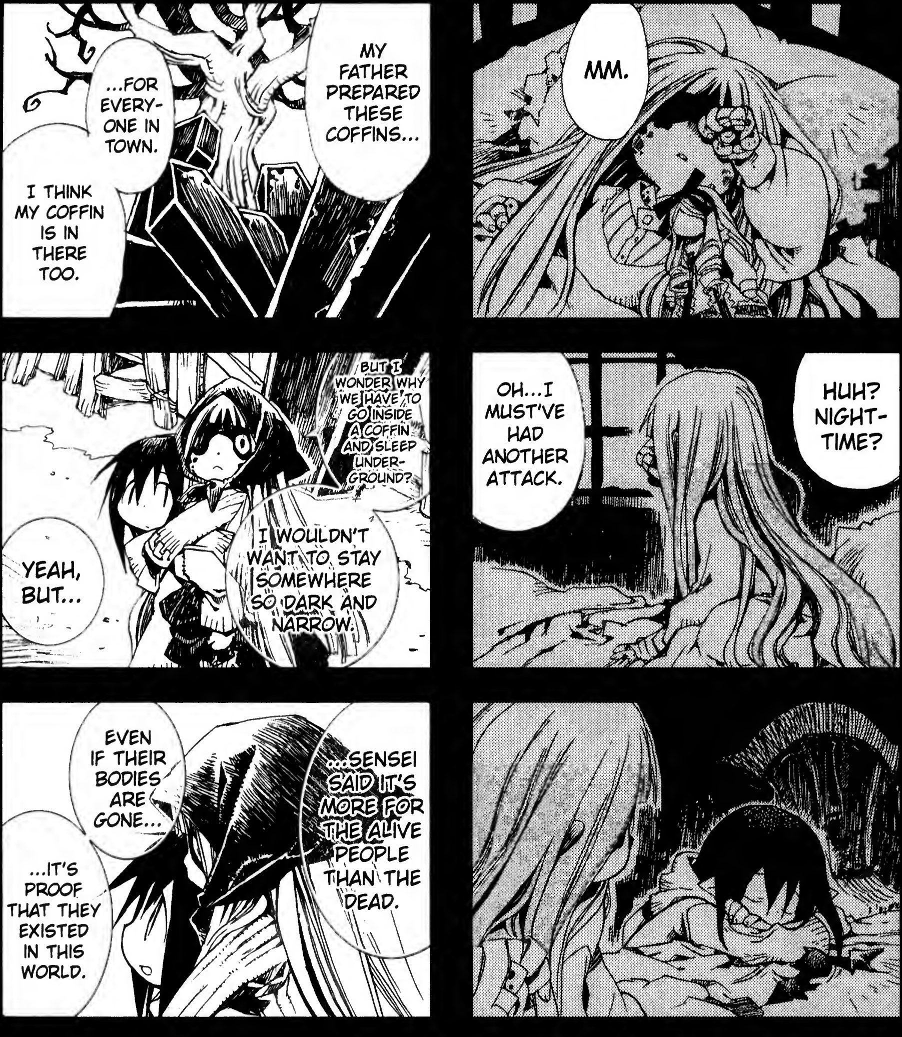

THE FIRST DAY...
...THE FIRST THING I THOUGHT WHEN I ENTERED THE TOWN...
...WAS, "WHAT A WEIRD TOWN."
IT'S LIKE A CEMETERY.
THERE ARE MANY COFFINS HERE.
I see. It's a dead town indeed.
THAT'S WHEN...
...A MYSTERIOUS GIRL SHOWED UP...
GHOSTS WON'T SHOW UP, RIGHT?
We're looking for a witch, though.
HEY.
AND ASKED US TO HELP HER WITH HER WEIRD CEREMONY.
IF YOU'RE BORED, CAN YOU HELP?
I'M HOLDING A FUNERAL.

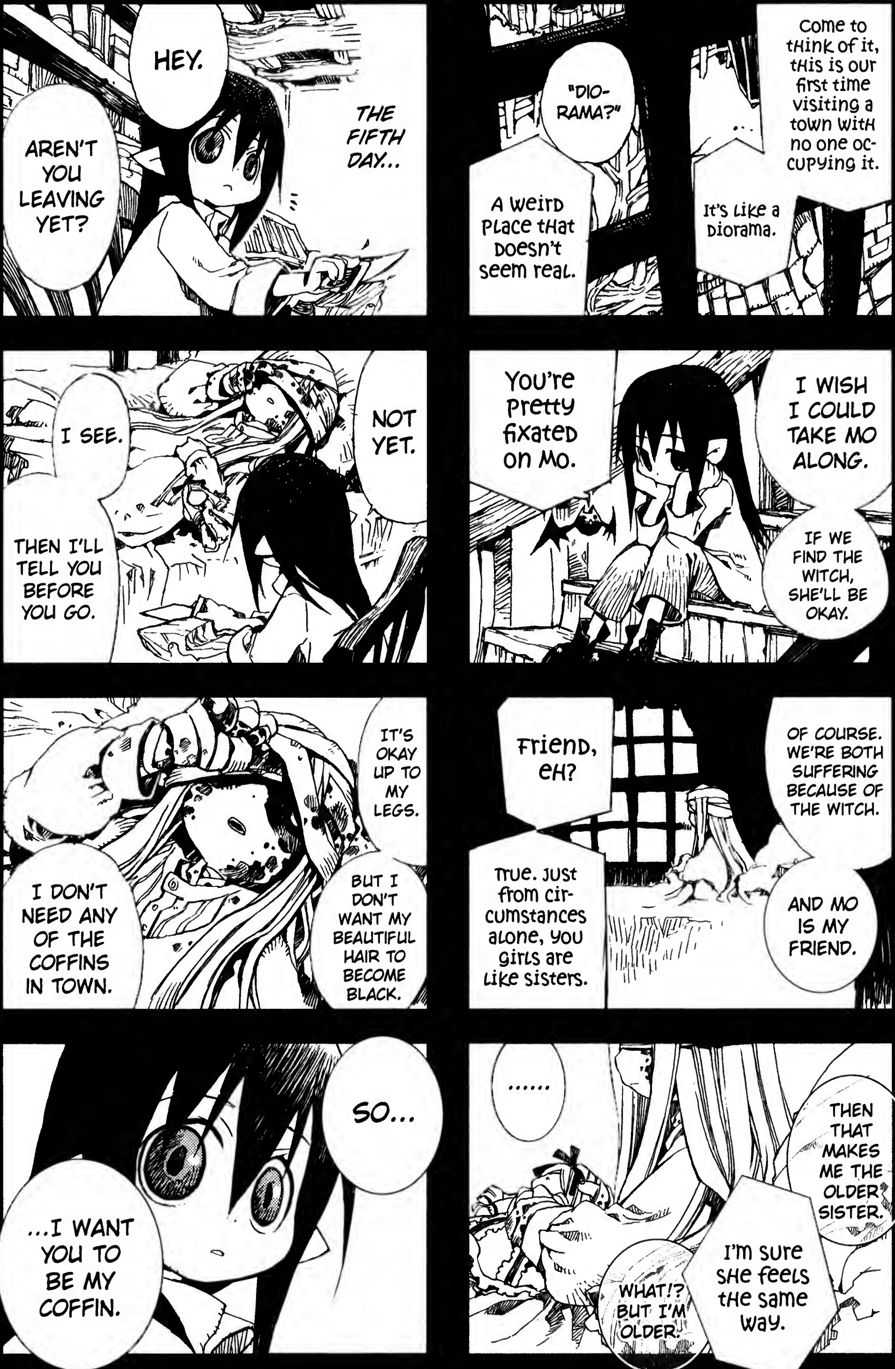

ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE IN THIS TOWN?
YES.
EVER SINCE TWO DAYS AGO.
YOU SAID FUNERAL, SO I THOUGHT YOU MEANT FOR ALL THE COFFINS.
THOSE ARE EMPTY.
IT'S FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T COME BACK.
UM...
...DO I HAVE TO WEAR BLACK?
IT'S A FUNERAL.
YOU HAVE TO.
I didn't think I would be taking care of the dead at a place like this.
SORRY, SENSEI.
We came to a horrible town.
YUCK.
I SEE.
WH— WHAT?
I CAN'T TAKE THIS OFF.
THANKS TO YOU GUYS, I THINK I CAN SEND THEM TO THE OTHER WORLD.
I CAN'T DO MANY THINGS ON MY OWN.
GOOD, YOU'RE NOT TRANS-PARENT.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GHOST AT FIRST.
THE BAT WAS TALKING, SO...
SLAP
SLAP
......
CAN I SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU?
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE THE PRIEST...
...SO YOU'RE THE SAD RELATIVES.
AND YOU DO THE OTHER RANDOM PARTS.
I didn't think I would have to play house here too.

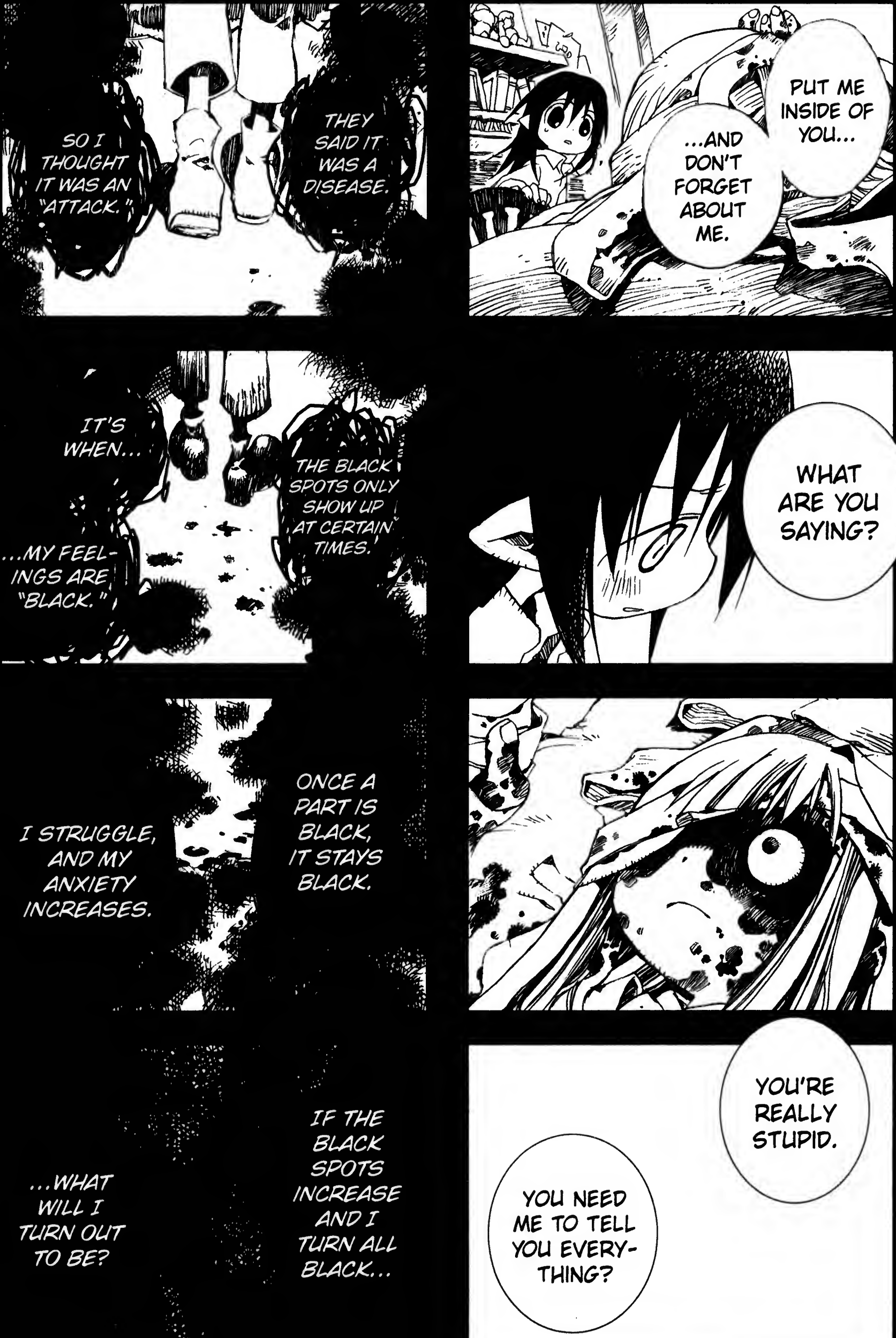

You can take that off.
OH yeah.
HUH? I CAN?
When I looked at the corpses, they didn't have signs of contagion.
So I guess they didn't die of a disease.
Well, I can't say for sure.
I'm concerned about her.
SHE LOOKS the most dead, but SHE's the only one alive.
What's up with Her?
How did she turn out like that?
THE SECOND DAY WAS A WEIRD FEAST.
I ATE ALL THE FOOD IN MY HOUSE...
...BUT THERE'S CHEESE FROM HANZ'S HOUSE
AND BECCA'S JAM IS GOOD TOO.
IT WAS MORE LIKE PLAYING HOUSE, THOUGH!
I didn't think I would get so much food...
...in a ghost town.
THANKS.
YOU'RE PRETTY CHEERFUL EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ALONE.
I GUESS.
EVER SINCE YOU CAME, I DON'T HAVE "ATTACKS."
AT-TACKS?
BY THE WAY.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
AH!
we forgot because you kept us busy.

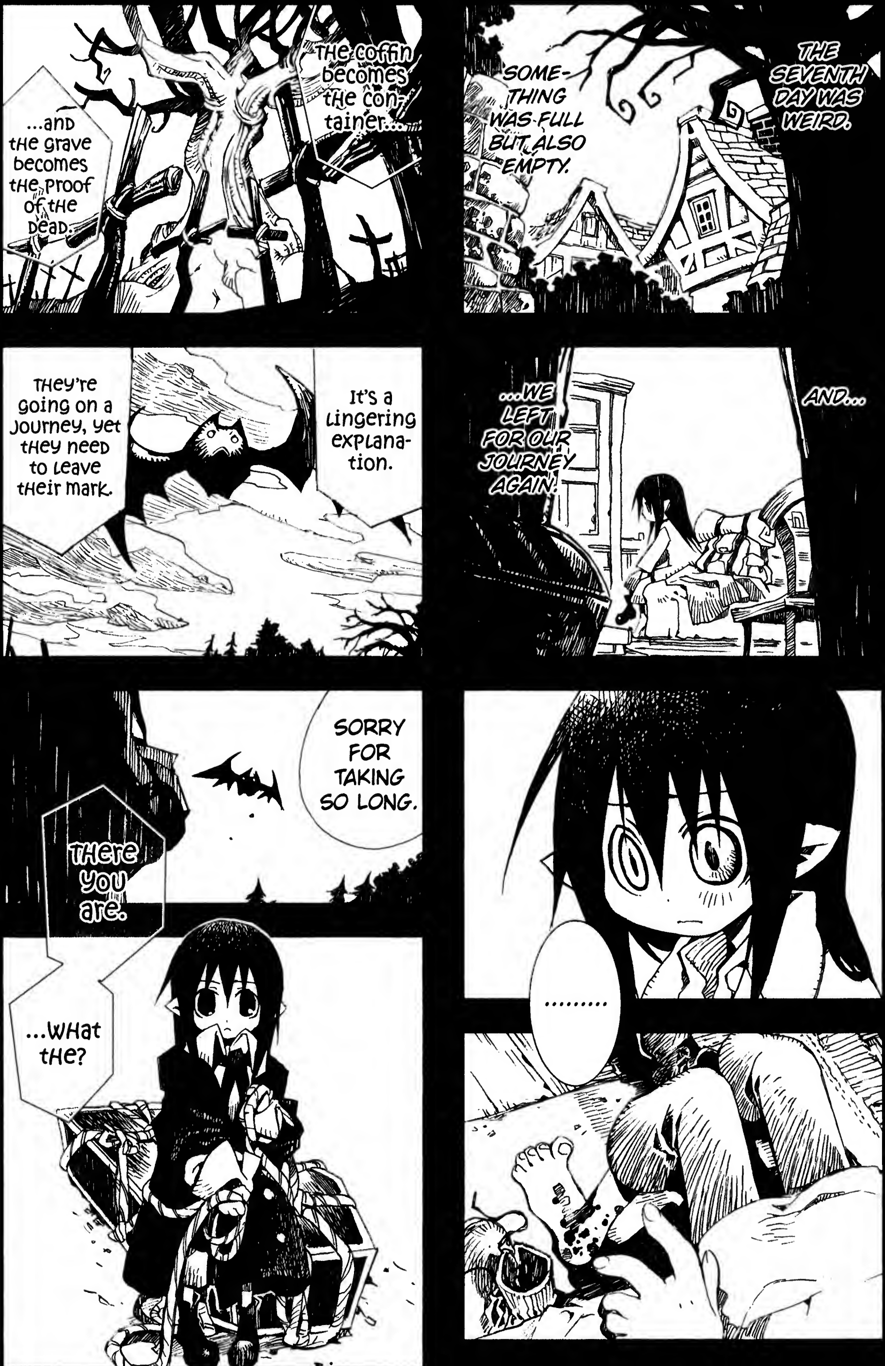

I SEE...
YOU GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR THE BLACK WITCH.
YOU HAVE A CURSE THAT CHANGED YOUR APPEARANCES...
...AND I HAVE A CURSE OF THESE BLACK SPOTS.
BUT I'VE LOOKED MANY, MANY TIMES...
...AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THE WITCH SINCE.
Hmm.
HMM.
THEN DO YOU WANT TO START A JOURNEY TOO?
Please Don't.
IT MIGHT BE FUN TO TAG ALONG.
Please Don't.
THE THIRD DAY I WAS OVERCOME WITH WEIRD FEELINGS.
I FELT BAD ABOUT LEAVING THE TOWN.
IF WE LEAVE...
...SHE'S GOING TO BE ALONE AGAIN.
But our business is Done.
I know what you want to say.
But if we miss the witch, there's no point to our journey.
AHHH!
!?

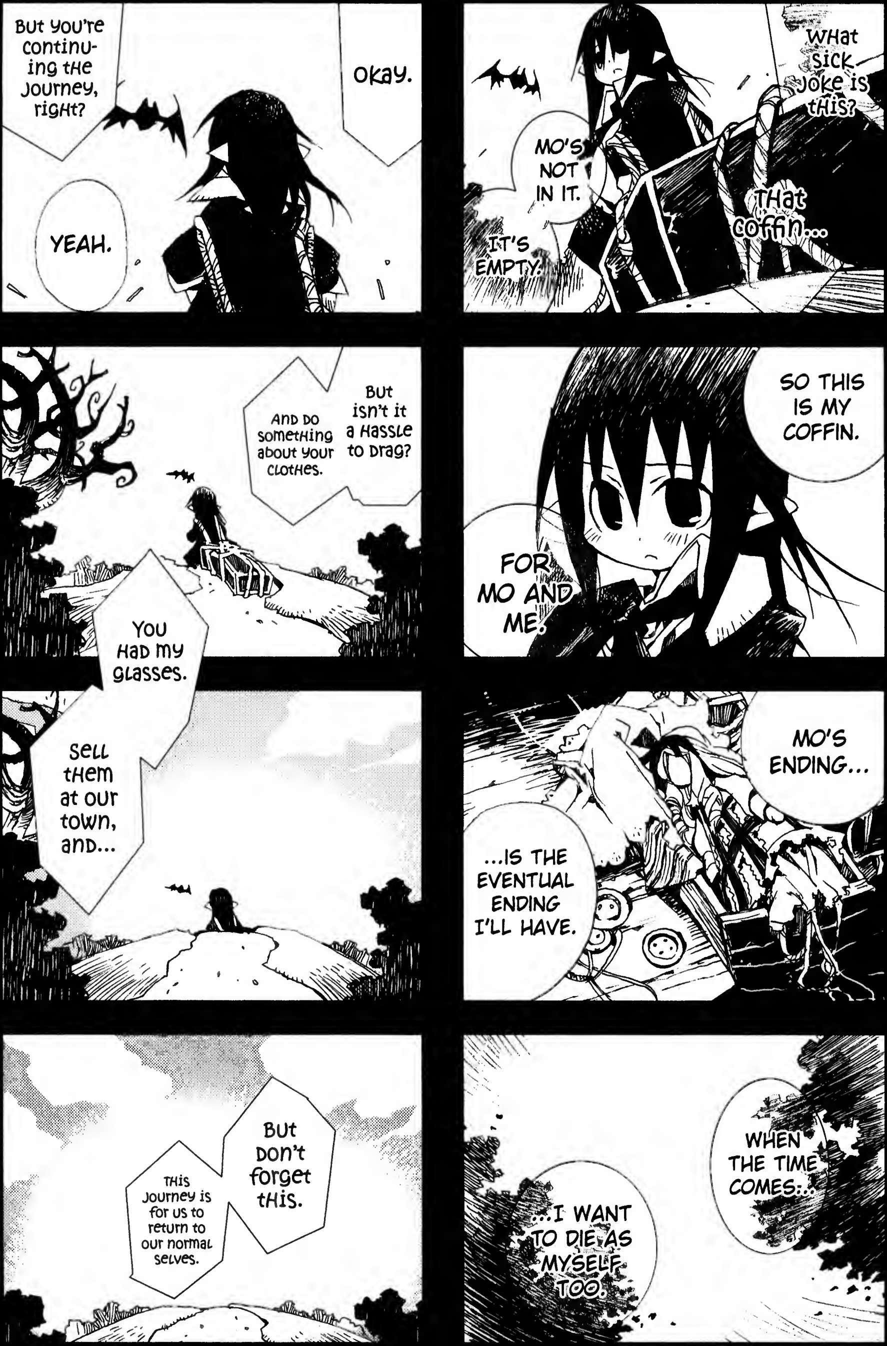

I WAS IN A HURRY,
SO I FORGOT.
THE BLACK PARTS OF MY BODY...
...SOMETIMES GO AGAINST MY WILL.
MO WAS HOLDING THIS WHEN SHE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS.
IT HAS DIFFICULT WORDS...
...AND REGION-SPECIFIC SPELLING, AND I CAN'T READ ALL OF IT.
IT'S OKAY IF I DON'T HAVE LEGS.
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO KICK ANYWAY.
BUT...
IT'S OKAY!
BUT IT'S ASKING A PERSON NAMED MAY...
...TO TAKE CARE OF MO.
I see.
Forget it. There's nothing we can say now.
Give Her time.
....
It's not...
...tHat He DiDn't Love Her.
SEEP
But He chose "respon-sibility" over Her.
That's all.

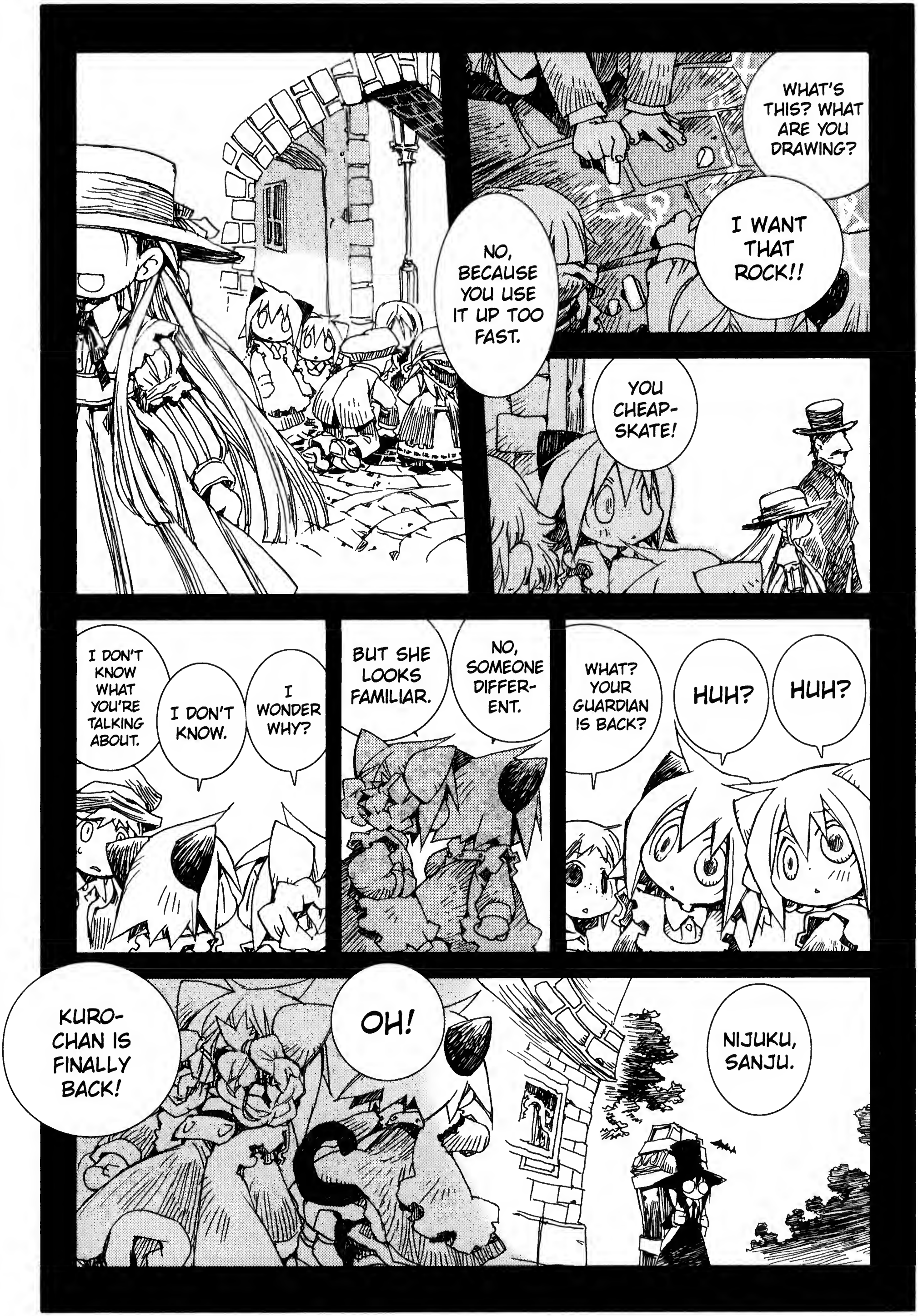

MM.
HUH? NIGHT-TIME?
OH...I MUST'VE HAD ANOTHER ATTACK.
......
PHEW.
SHE'S NOT TRANSPARENT.
MY FATHER PREPARED THESE COFFINS...
...FOR EVERYONE IN TOWN.
I THINK MY COFFIN IS IN THERE TOO.
BUT I WONDER WHY WE HAVE TO GO INSIDE A COFFIN AND SLEEP UNDERGROUND?
I WOULDN'T WANT TO STAY SOMEWHERE SO DARK AND NARROW.
YEAH, BUT...
...SENSEI SAID IT'S MORE FOR THE ALIVE PEOPLE THAN THE DEAD.
EVEN IF THEIR BODIES ARE GONE...
...IT'S PROOF THAT THEY EXISTED IN THIS WORLD.
I'M NOT GOING TO BE SOMEONE OF THE PAST YET.
HMPH.
YOU BROUGHT IT UP FIRST.
YANK
OW, THAT HURTS!

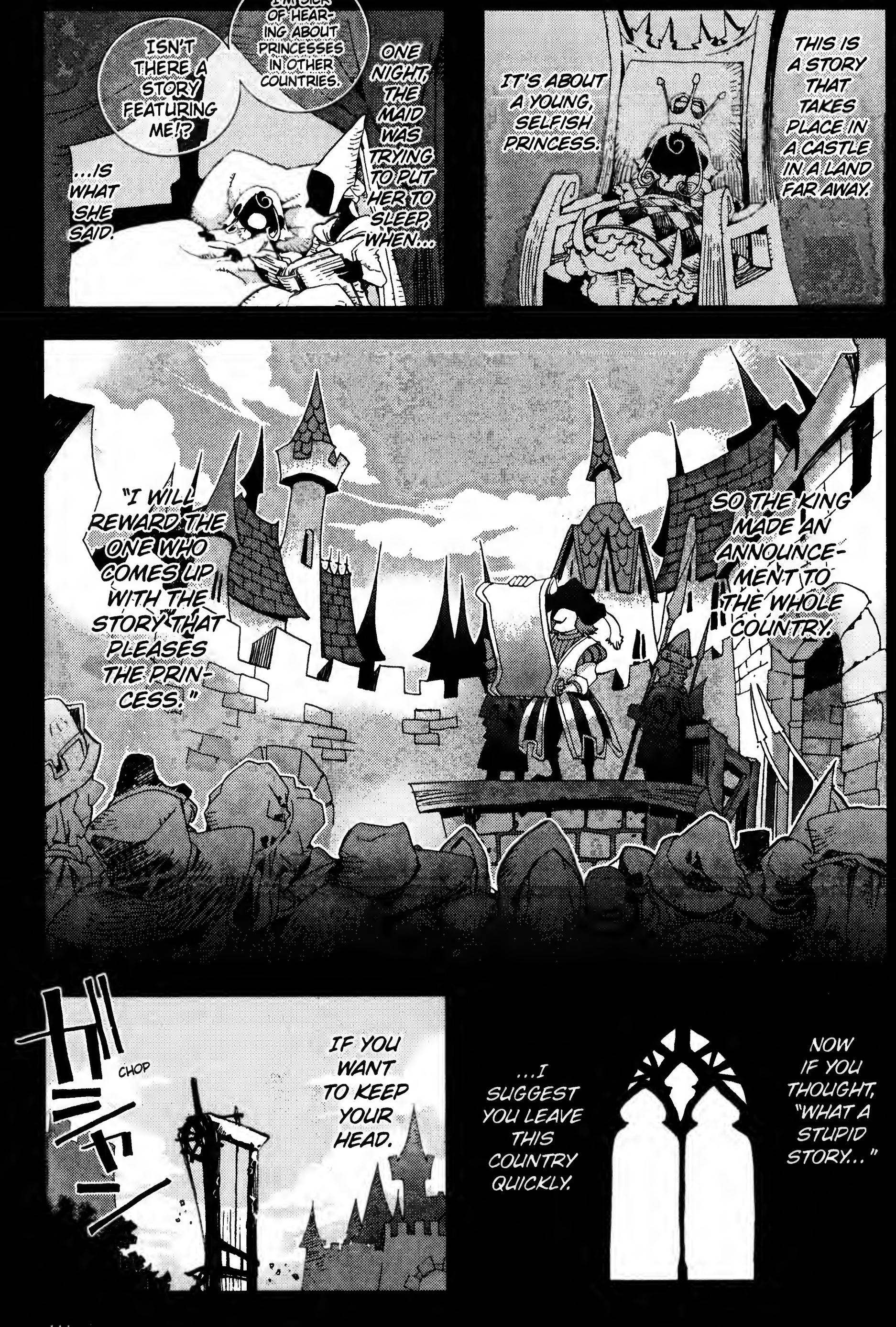

Come to think of it, this is our first time visiting a town with no one occupying it.
...
It's like a diorama.
"Dio-rama?"
A weird place that doesn't seem real.
I wish I could take Mo along.
If we find the witch, she'll be okay.
You're pretty fixated on Mo.
Of course. We're both suffering because of the witch.
And Mo is my friend.
Friend, eh?
True. Just from circumstances alone, you girls are like sisters.
Then that makes me the older sister.
I'm sure she feels the same way.
What!? But I'm older.
......
The fifth day...
Hey.
Aren't you leaving yet?
Not yet.
I see.
Then I'll tell you before you go.
It's okay up to my legs.
But I don't want my beautiful hair to become black.
I don't need any of the coffins in town.
So...
...I want you to be my coffin.

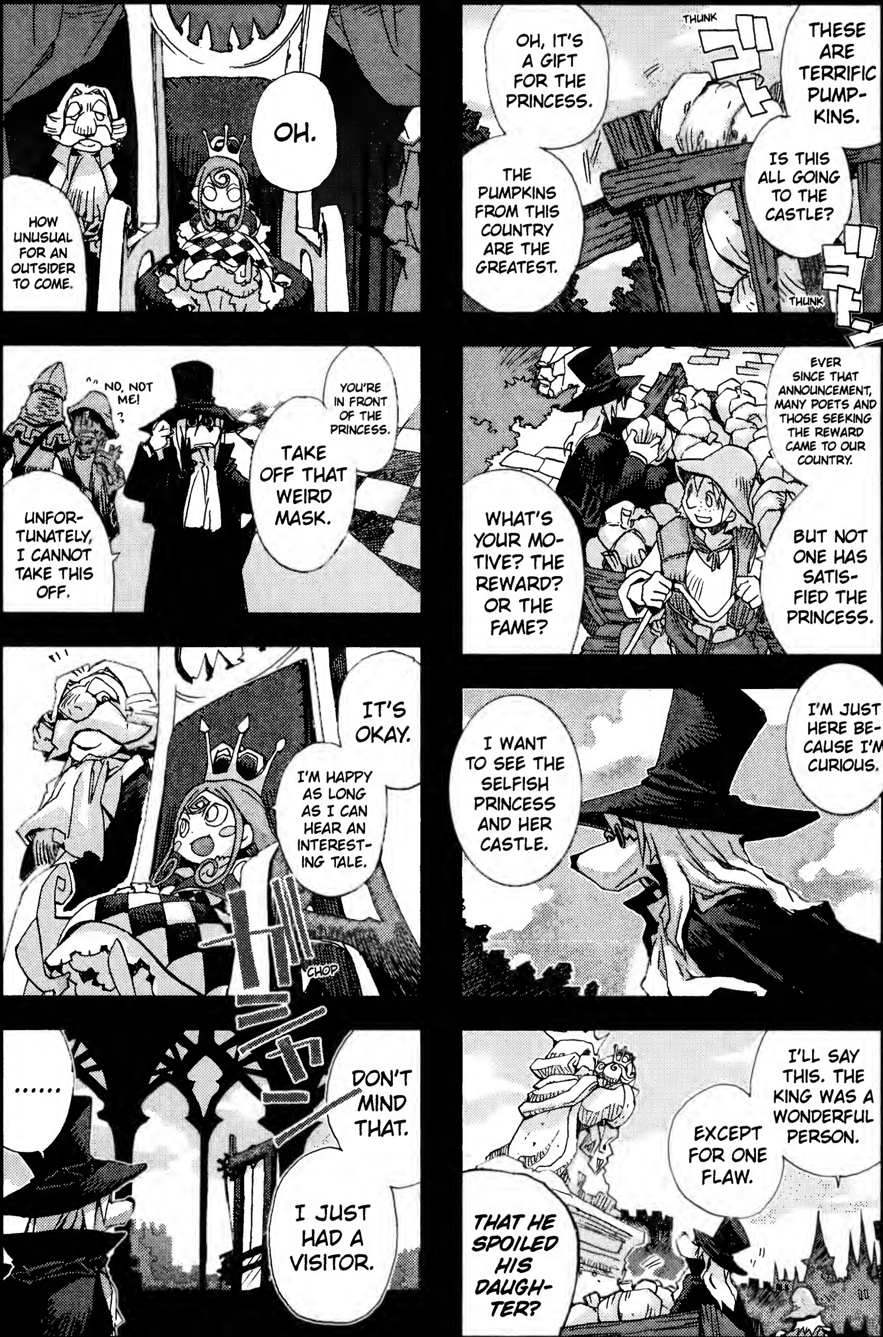

PUT ME INSIDE OF YOU...
...AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME.
THEY SAID IT WAS A DISEASE.
SO I THOUGHT IT WAS AN "ATTACK."
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THE BLACK SPOTS ONLY SHOW UP AT CERTAIN TIMES.
IT'S WHEN...
...MY FEELINGS ARE "BLACK."
ONCE A PART IS BLACK, IT STAYS BLACK.
I STRUGGLE, AND MY ANXIETY INCREASES.
YOU'RE REALLY STUPID.
YOU NEED ME TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING?
IF THE BLACK SPOTS INCREASE AND I TURN ALL BLACK...
...WHAT WILL I TURN OUT TO BE?

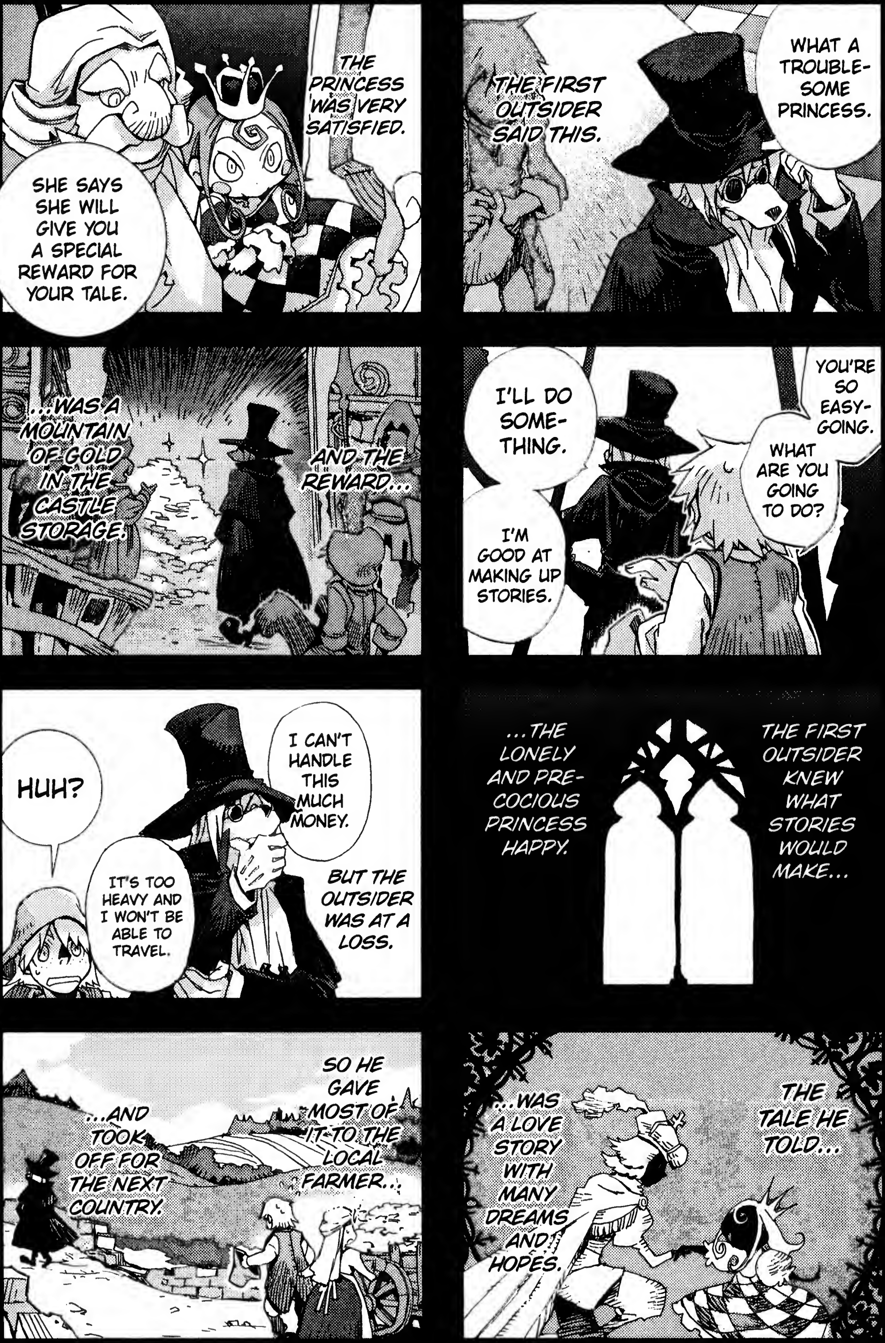

THE SEVENTH DAY WAS WEIRD.
SOMETHING WAS FULL BUT ALSO EMPTY.
The coffin becomes the container...
...and the grave becomes the proof of the dead.
AND...
...WE LEFT FOR OUR JOURNEY AGAIN.
It's a lingering explanation.
They're going on a journey, yet they need to leave their mark.
SORRY FOR TAKING SO LONG.
There you are.
...What the?
....

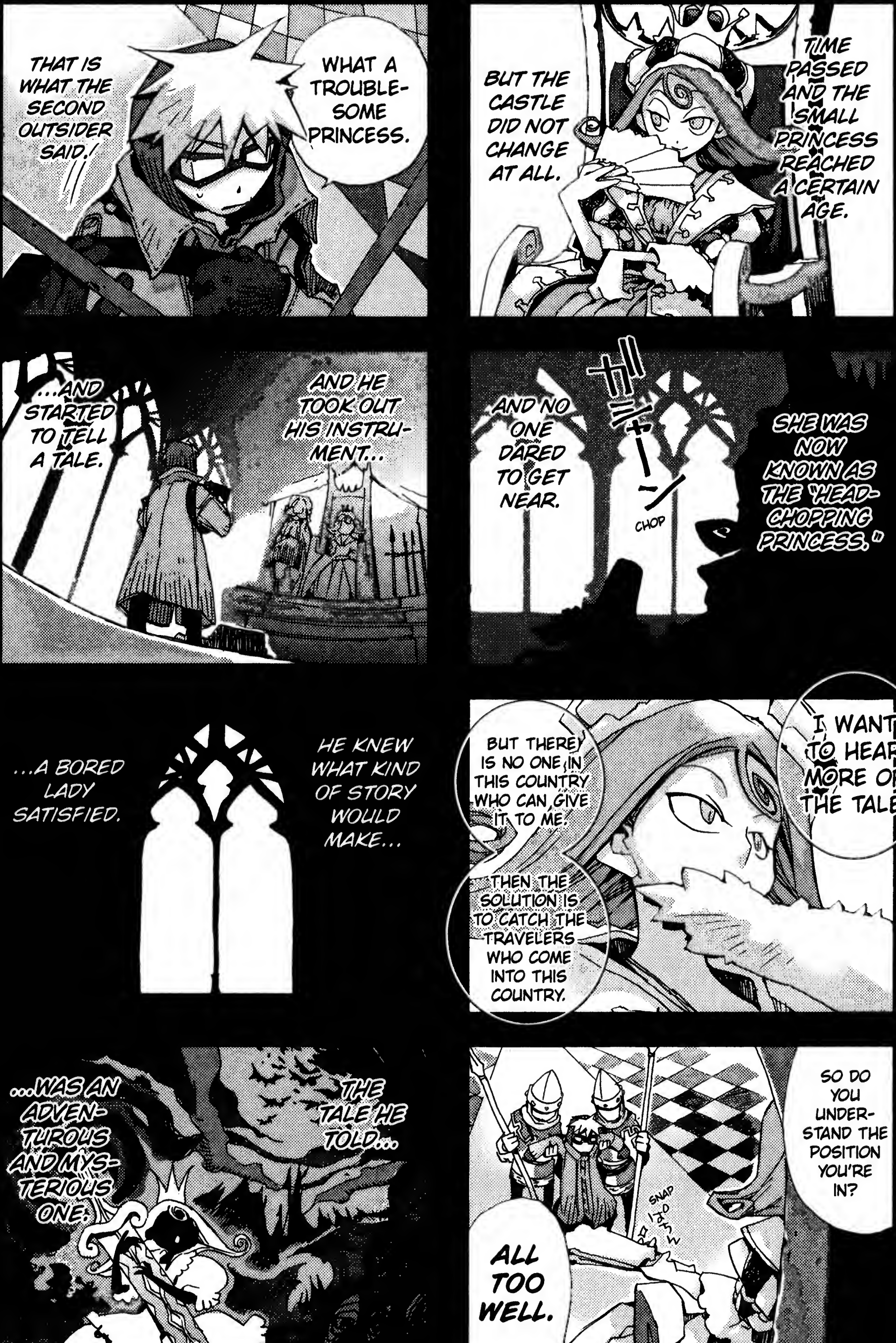

WHat sick Joke is tHis?
THat coffin...
MO'S NOT IN IT.
IT'S EMPTY.
SO THIS IS MY COFFIN.
FOR MO AND ME.
MO'S ENDING...
...IS THE EVENTUAL ENDING I'LL HAVE.
WHEN THE TIME COMES...
...I WANT TO DIE AS MYSELF TOO.
OKay.
But you're continuing tHe Journey, rigHt?
YEAH.
But isn't it a Hassle to Drag?
AnD Do sometHing about your clotHes.
You HaD my glasses.
Sell tHem at our town, anD...
But Don't forget tHis.
THis Journey is for us to return to our normal selves.

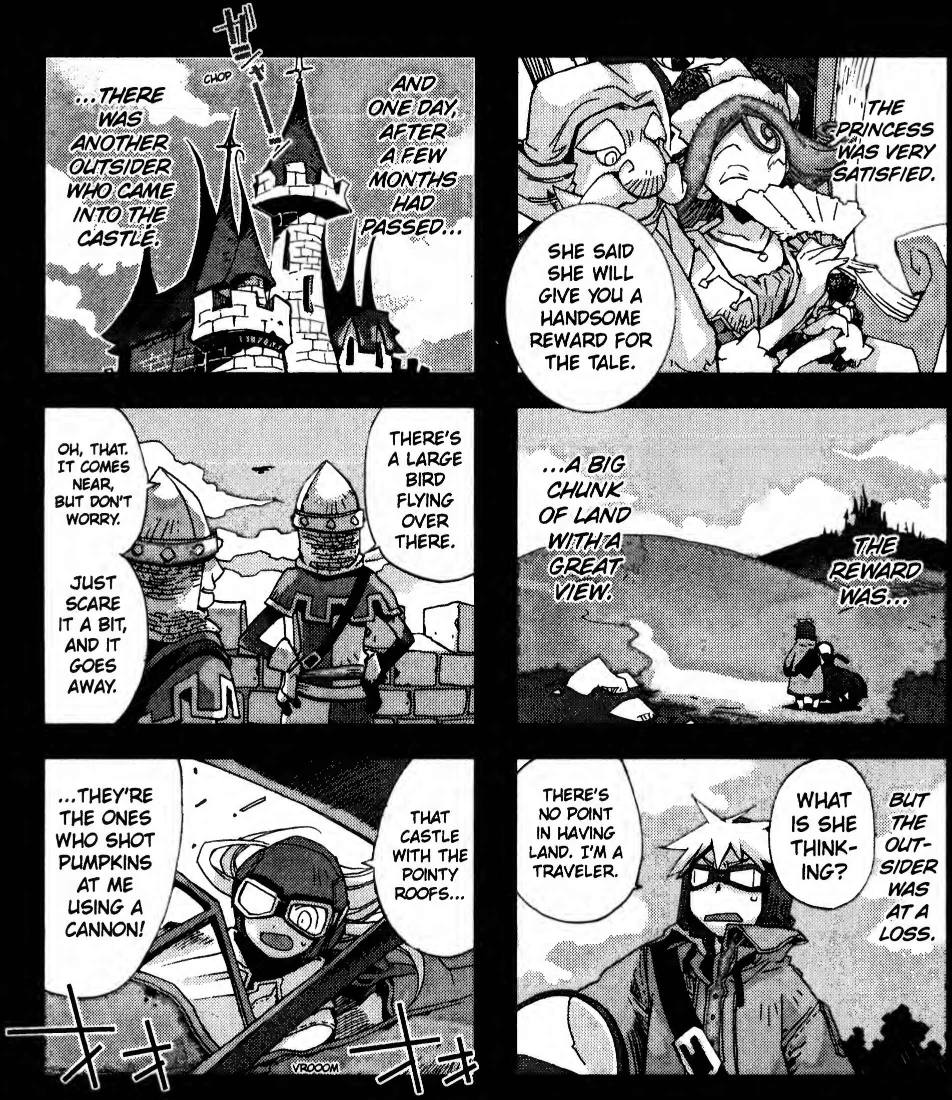

WHAT'S THIS? WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING?
I WANT THAT ROCK!!
NO, BECAUSE YOU USE IT UP TOO FAST.
YOU CHEAPSKATE!
HUH?
HUH?
WHAT? YOUR GUARDIAN IS BACK?
NO, SOMEONE DIFFERENT.
BUT SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR.
I WONDER WHY?
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
NIJUKU, SANJU.
OH!
KURO-CHAN IS FINALLY BACK!

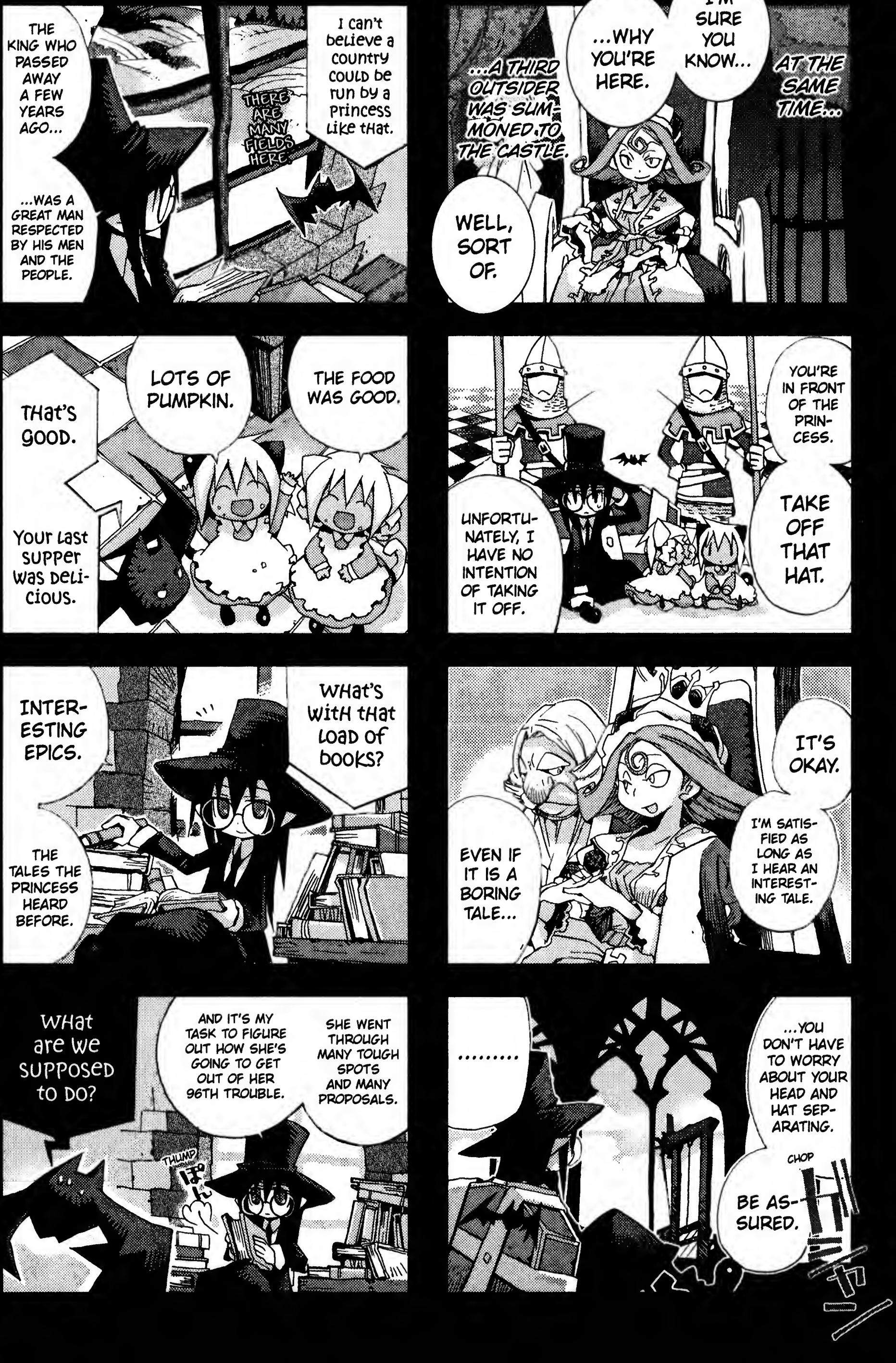

THIS IS A STORY THAT TAKES PLACE IN A CASTLE IN A LAND FAR AWAY.
IT'S ABOUT A YOUNG, SELFISH PRINCESS.
ONE NIGHT, THE MAID WAS TRYING TO PUT HER TO SLEEP, WHEN...
I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT PRINCESSES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
ISN'T THERE A STORY FEATURING ME!?
...IS WHAT SHE SAID.
SO THE KING MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY.
"I WILL REWARD THE ONE WHO COMES UP WITH THE STORY THAT PLEASES THE PRINCESS."
NOW IF YOU THOUGHT, "WHAT A STUPID STORY..."
...I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE THIS COUNTRY QUICKLY.
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR HEAD.
ガシャーン
CHOP

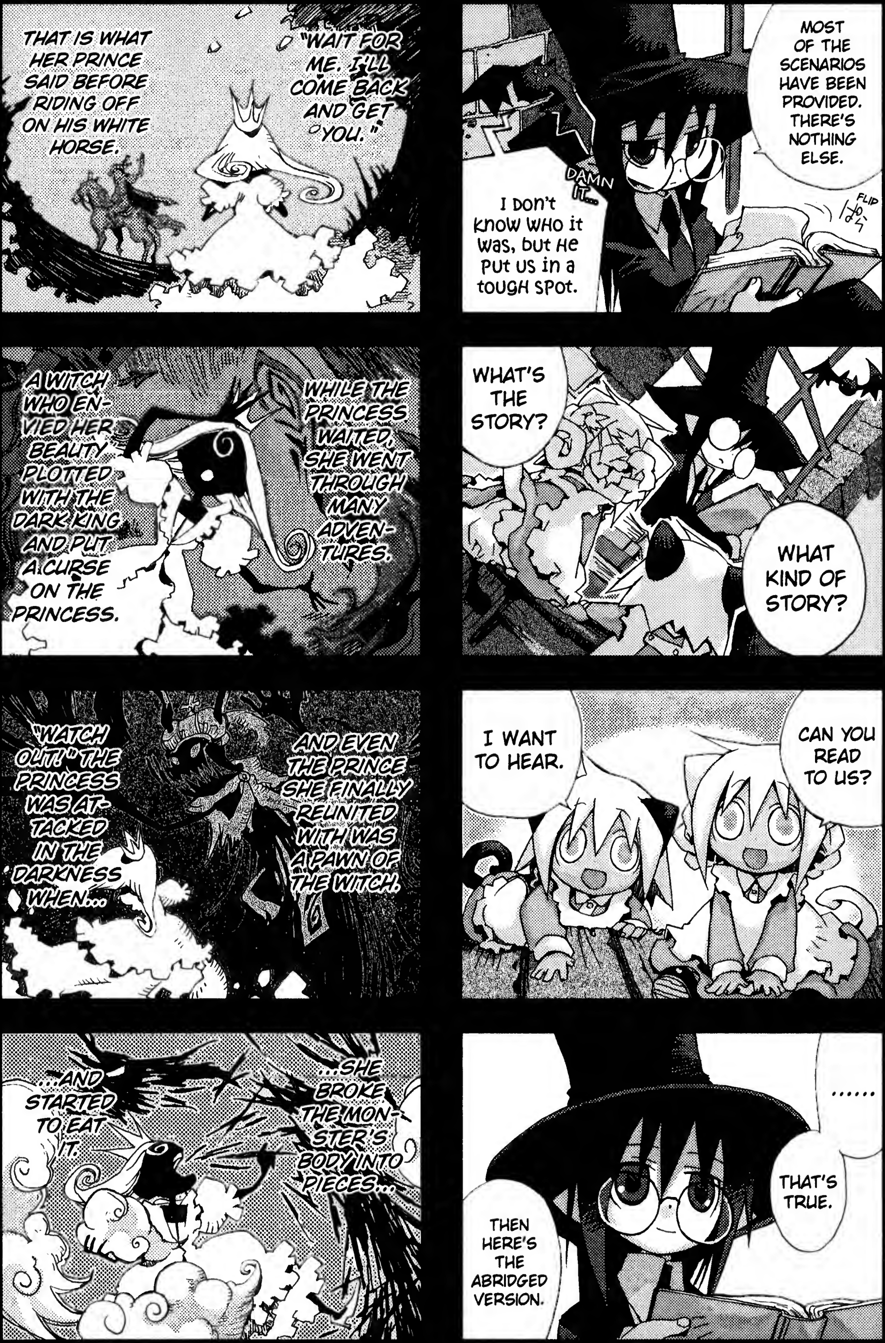

THUNK
THESE ARE TERRIFIC PUMPKINS.
IS THIS ALL GOING TO THE CASTLE?
OH, IT'S A GIFT FOR THE PRINCESS.
THE PUMPKINS FROM THIS COUNTRY ARE THE GREATEST.
THUNK
OH.
HOW UNUSUAL FOR AN OUTSIDER TO COME.
EVER SINCE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT, MANY POETS AND THOSE SEEKING THE REWARD CAME TO OUR COUNTRY.
BUT NOT ONE HAS SATISFIED THE PRINCESS.
WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVE? THE REWARD? OR THE FAME?
YOU'RE IN FRONT OF THE PRINCESS.
TAKE OFF THAT WEIRD MASK.
NO, NOT ME!
UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT TAKE THIS OFF.
I'M JUST HERE BECAUSE I'M CURIOUS.
I WANT TO SEE THE SELFISH PRINCESS AND HER CASTLE.
IT'S OKAY.
I'M HAPPY AS LONG AS I CAN HEAR AN INTERESTING TALE.
CHOP
I'LL SAY THIS. THE KING WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON.
EXCEPT FOR ONE FLAW.
THAT HE SPOILED HIS DAUGHTER?
DON'T MIND THAT.
I JUST HAD A VISITOR.
......

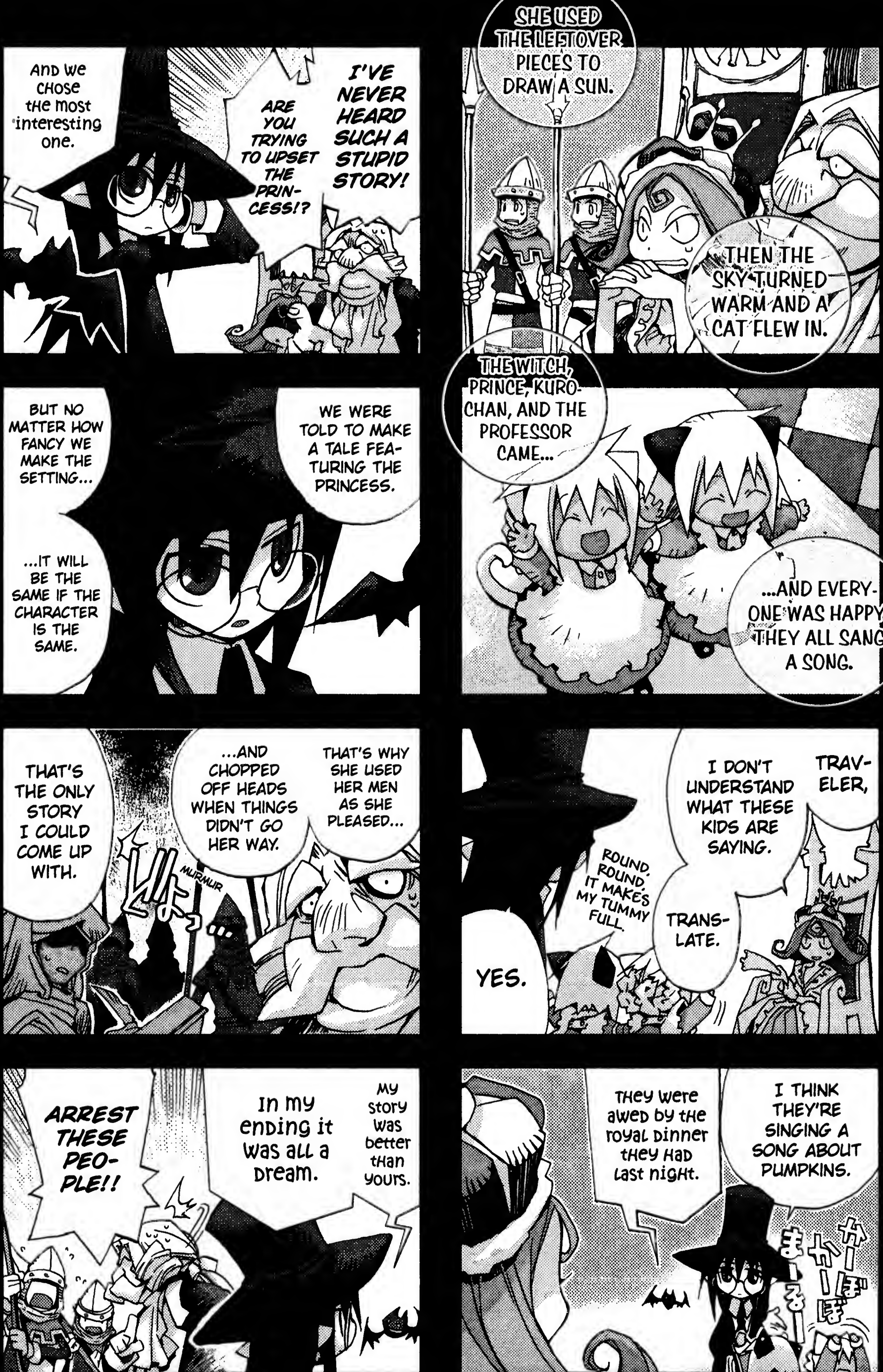

WHAT A TROUBLESOME PRINCESS.
THE FIRST OUTSIDER SAID THIS.
THE PRINCESS WAS VERY SATISFIED.
SHE SAYS SHE WILL GIVE YOU A SPECIAL REWARD FOR YOUR TALE.
YOU'RE SO EASY-GOING.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'LL DO SOMETHING.
I'M GOOD AT MAKING UP STORIES.
AND THE REWARD...
...WAS A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD IN THE CASTLE STORAGE.
THE FIRST OUTSIDER KNEW WHAT STORIES WOULD MAKE...
...THE LONELY AND PRECOCIOUS PRINCESS HAPPY.
BUT THE OUTSIDER WAS AT A LOSS.
I CAN'T HANDLE THIS MUCH MONEY.
IT'S TOO HEAVY AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO TRAVEL.
HUH?
THE TALE HE TOLD...
...WAS A LOVE STORY WITH MANY DREAMS AND HOPES.
SO HE GAVE MOST OF IT TO THE LOCAL FARMER...
...AND TOOK OFF FOR THE NEXT COUNTRY.


TIME PASSED AND THE SMALL PRINCESS REACHED A CERTAIN AGE.
BUT THE CASTLE DID NOT CHANGE AT ALL.
SHE WAS NOW KNOWN AS THE "HEAD-CHOPPING PRINCESS."
ガシャーン
CHOP
AND NO ONE DARED TO GET NEAR.
I WANT TO HEAR MORE OF THE TALE.
BUT THERE IS NO ONE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO CAN GIVE IT TO ME.
THEN THE SOLUTION IS TO CATCH THE TRAVELERS WHO COME INTO THIS COUNTRY.
SO DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE POSITION YOU'RE IN?
SNAP
ALL TOO WELL.
WHAT A TROUBLESOME PRINCESS.
THAT IS WHAT THE SECOND OUTSIDER SAID.
AND HE TOOK OUT HIS INSTRUMENT...
...AND STARTED TO TELL A TALE.
HE KNEW WHAT KIND OF STORY WOULD MAKE...
...A BORED LADY SATISFIED.
THE TALE HE TOLD...
...WAS AN ADVENTUROUS AND MYSTERIOUS ONE.

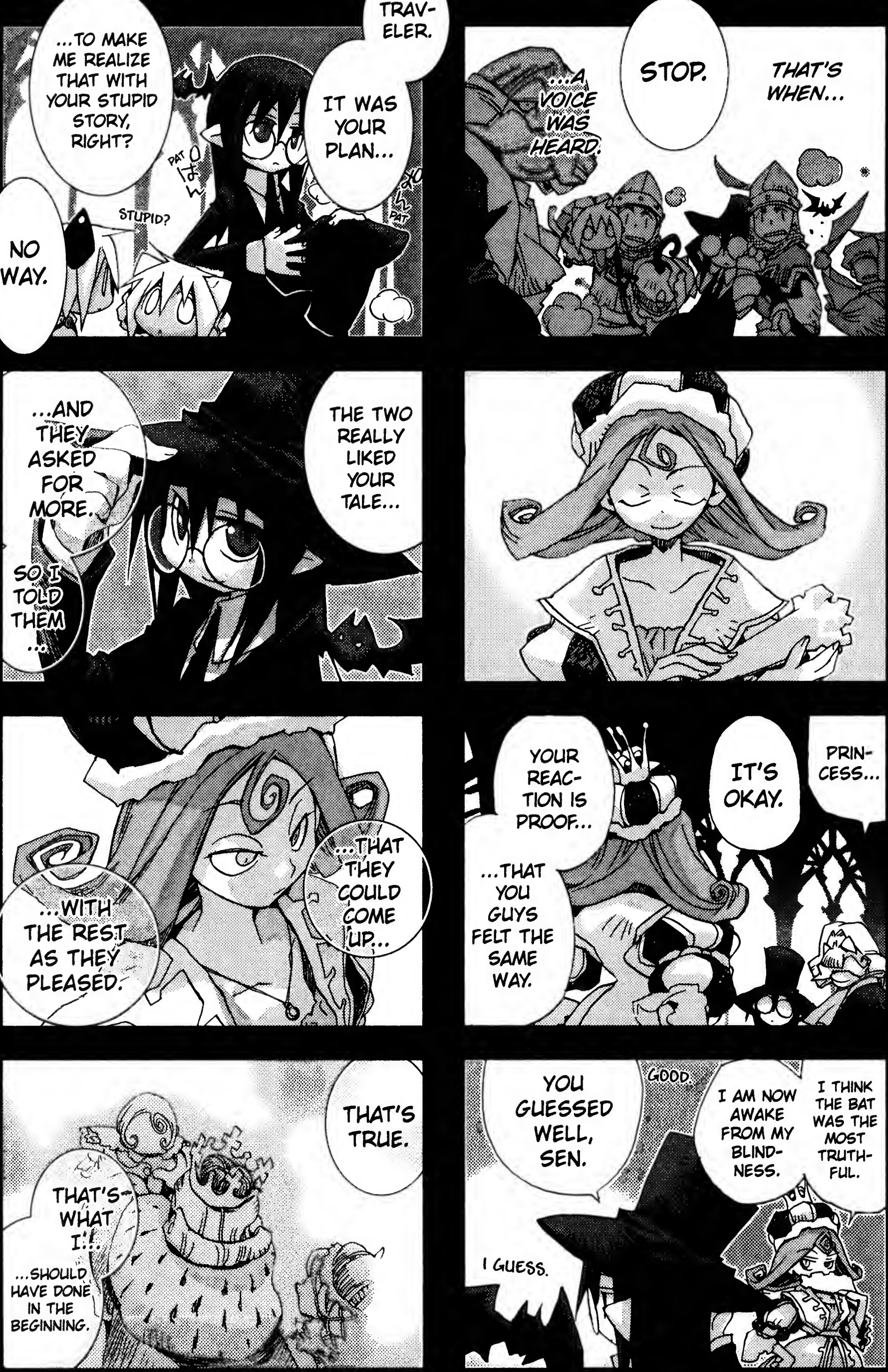

THE PRINCESS WAS VERY SATISFIED.
SHE SAID SHE WILL GIVE YOU A HANDSOME REWARD FOR THE TALE.
THE REWARD WAS...
...A BIG CHUNK OF LAND WITH A GREAT VIEW.
BUT THE OUTSIDER WAS AT A LOSS.
WHAT IS SHE THINKING?
THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING LAND. I'M A TRAVELER.
SO HE SOLD THE LAND TO A LOCAL FARMER...
...AND LEFT WITH A BUNCH OF MONEY IN HIS HAND.
CHOP
AND ONE DAY, AFTER A FEW MONTHS HAD PASSED...
...THERE WAS ANOTHER OUTSIDER WHO CAME INTO THE CASTLE.
THERE'S A LARGE BIRD FLYING OVER THERE.
OH, THAT. IT COMES NEAR, BUT DON'T WORRY.
JUST SCARE IT A BIT, AND IT GOES AWAY.
THAT CASTLE WITH THE POINTY ROOFS...
...THEY'RE THE ONES WHO SHOT PUMPKINS AT ME USING A CANNON!
VROOOM
SO THE TRAVELING AIR DELIVERY SERVICE...
...FLEW AWAY SO SHE WOULDN'T GET INVOLVED.

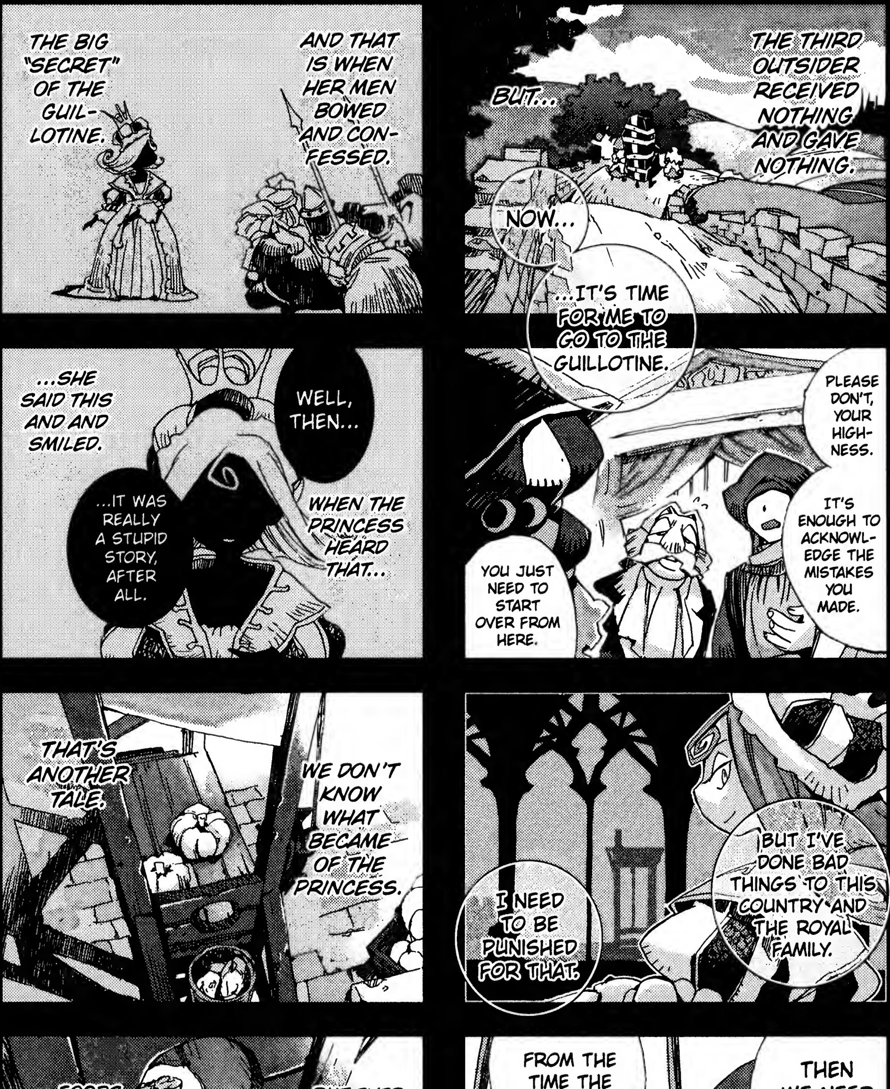

AT THE SAME TIME...
...A THIRD OUTSIDER WAS SUMMONED TO THE CASTLE.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW...
...WHY YOU'RE HERE.
WELL, SORT OF.
YOU'RE IN FRONT OF THE PRINCESS.
TAKE OFF THAT HAT.
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING IT OFF.
IT'S OKAY.
I'M SATISFIED AS LONG AS I HEAR AN INTERESTING TALE.
EVEN IF IT IS A BORING TALE...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR HEAD AND HAT SEPARATING.
CHOP
BE ASSURED.
I can't believe a country could be run by a princess like that.
THERE ARE MANY FIELDS HERE.
THE KING WHO PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO...
...WAS A GREAT MAN RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND THE PEOPLE.
THE FOOD WAS GOOD.
LOTS OF PUMPKIN.
That's good.
Your last supper was delicious.
What's with that load of books?
INTERESTING EPICS.
THE TALES THE PRINCESS HEARD BEFORE.
SHE WENT THROUGH MANY TOUGH SPOTS AND MANY PROPOSALS.
AND IT'S MY TASK TO FIGURE OUT HOW SHE'S GOING TO GET OUT OF HER 96TH TROUBLE.
THUMP
ぽん
What are we supposed to do?
....


MOST OF THE SCENARIOS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE.
FLIP ぱら
DAMN IT...
I don't know who it was, but he put us in a tough spot.
WHAT'S THE STORY?
WHAT KIND OF STORY?
CAN YOU READ TO US?
I WANT TO HEAR.
......
THAT'S TRUE.
THEN HERE'S THE ABRIDGED VERSION.
"WAIT FOR ME. I'LL COME BACK AND GET YOU."
THAT IS WHAT HER PRINCE SAID BEFORE RIDING OFF ON HIS WHITE HORSE.
WHILE THE PRINCESS WAITED, SHE WENT THROUGH MANY ADVENTURES.
A WITCH WHO ENVIED HER BEAUTY PLOTTED WITH THE DARK KING AND PUT A CURSE ON THE PRINCESS.
AND EVEN THE PRINCE SHE FINALLY REUNITED WITH WAS A PAWN OF THE WITCH.
"WATCH OUT!" THE PRINCESS WAS ATTACKED IN THE DARKNESS WHEN...
...SHE BROKE THE MONSTER'S BODY INTO PIECES...
...AND STARTED TO EAT IT.


SHE USED THE LEFTOVER PIECES TO DRAW A SUN.
THEN THE SKY TURNED WARM AND A CAT FLEW IN.
THE WITCH, PRINCE, KURO-CHAN, AND THE PROFESSOR CAME...
...AND EVERYONE WAS HAPPY. THEY ALL SANG A SONG.
TRAVELER,
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE KIDS ARE SAYING.
TRANSLATE.
YES.
ROUND, ROUND, IT MAKES MY TUMMY FULL.
I THINK THEY'RE SINGING A SONG ABOUT PUMPKINS.
They were awed by the royal dinner they had last night.
かーぼ かーぼ まーるー
I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH A STUPID STORY!
ARE YOU TRYING TO UPSET THE PRINCESS!?
And we chose the most interesting one.
WE WERE TOLD TO MAKE A TALE FEATURING THE PRINCESS.
BUT NO MATTER HOW FANCY WE MAKE THE SETTING...
...IT WILL BE THE SAME IF THE CHARACTER IS THE SAME.
THAT'S WHY SHE USED HER MEN AS SHE PLEASED...
...AND CHOPPED OFF HEADS WHEN THINGS DIDN'T GO HER WAY.
THAT'S THE ONLY STORY I COULD COME UP WITH.
MURMUR
My story was better than yours.
In my ending it was all a dream.
ARREST THESE PEOPLE!!

SFX: PUMPKINS, ROUND PUMPKINS.


THAT'S WHEN...
STOP.
...A VOICE WAS HEARD.
TRAVELER.
IT WAS YOUR PLAN...
...TO MAKE ME REALIZE THAT WITH YOUR STUPID STORY, RIGHT?
PAT
PAT
STUPID?
NO WAY.
THE TWO REALLY LIKED YOUR TALE...
...AND THEY ASKED FOR MORE.
SO I TOLD THEM...
PRINCESS...
IT'S OKAY.
YOUR REACTION IS PROOF...
...THAT YOU GUYS FELT THE SAME WAY.
...THAT THEY COULD COME UP...
...WITH THE REST AS THEY PLEASED.
I THINK THE BAT WAS THE MOST TRUTHFUL.
I AM NOW AWAKE FROM MY BLINDNESS.
GOOD.
YOU GUESSED WELL, SEN.
I GUESS.
THAT'S TRUE.
THAT'S WHAT I!...
...SHOULD HAVE DONE IN THE BEGINNING.

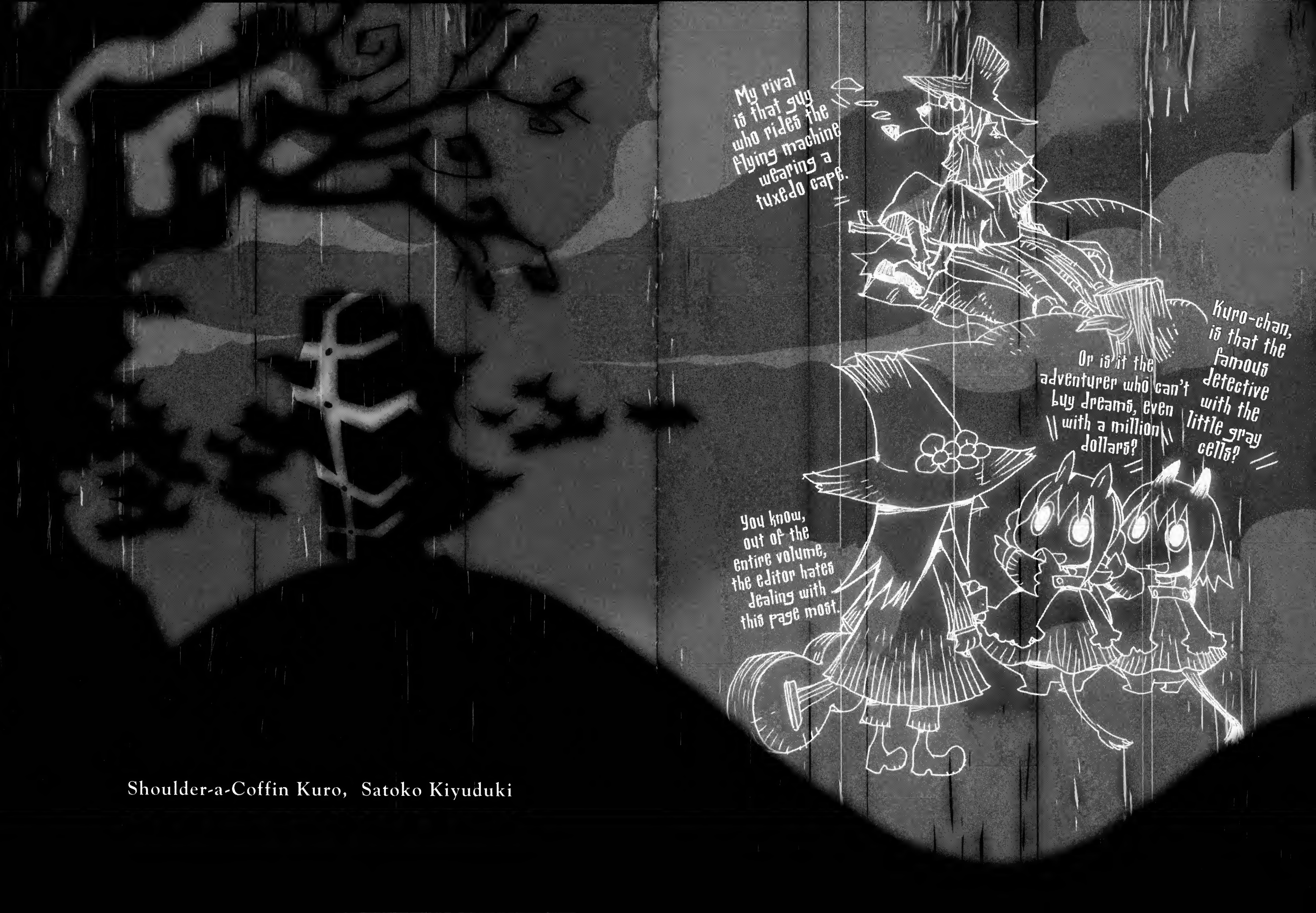

BUT...
THE THIRD OUTSIDER RECEIVED NOTHING AND GAVE NOTHING.
NOW...
...IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO TO THE GUILLOTINE.
PLEASE DON'T, YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT'S ENOUGH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MISTAKES YOU MADE.
YOU JUST NEED TO START OVER FROM HERE.
BUT I'VE DONE BAD THINGS TO THIS COUNTRY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.
I NEED TO BE PUNISHED FOR THAT.
THEN WE NEED TO BE PUNISHED TOO.
FROM THE TIME THE KING PASSED AWAY...
...WE'VE BEEN KEEPING A BIG SECRET.
AND THAT IS WHEN HER MEN BOWED AND CONFESSED.
THE BIG "SECRET" OF THE GUILLOTINE.
WHEN THE PRINCESS HEARD THAT...
WELL, THEN...
...IT WAS REALLY A STUPID STORY, AFTER ALL.
...SHE SAID THIS AND AND SMILED.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT BECAME OF THE PRINCESS.
THAT'S ANOTHER TALE.
BUT EVER SINCE THE GUILLOTINE WENT OUT OF USE...
...FOODS MADE WITH PUMPKIN DISAPPEARED FROM THE ROYAL DINNER TABLE.

THANK YOU FOR READING SHOULDER-A-COFFIN KURO VOLUME 2.
I'LL BE HAPPY IF I CAN SEE YOU IN THE NEXT VOLUME TOO.

SATOKO KIYUDUKI

TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 56
Nijuku and Sanju
Nijuku and *Sanju* are shortened terms for the numbers "twenty-nine" (*nijuuku*) and "thirty" (*sanjuu*) in Japanese. In drawings, the number "3" looks like an ear.


Kuro-chan, is that the famous detective with the little gray cells?
Or is it the adventurer who can't buy dreams, even with a million dollars?
My rival is that guy who rides the flying machine wearing a tuxedo cape.
You know, out of the entire volume, the editor hates dealing with this page most.

Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro, Satoko Kiyuduki